

From: lee.heller@live.com [mailto:lee.heller@live.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 10:40 PM
To: Rep. Conroy, Theresa
Subject: Blasting

February 17, 2015
Blasting

To whom it may concern:

My name is Lee Heller and I live at 34 George Street in Seymour. I have lived here for over 30 years now in a brick Cape Cod style house with a cinderblock foundation, my house was built in 1950. In 2008, Blakeman Construction blasted out the hill at 144 Bank Street, Seymour for over 13 months to make way for a Walgreens plaza. My house had a pre blast inspection. Shortly after the blasting stopped, my water main burst, and had to be repaired. It was under my newly paved driveway. That cost me 5 thousand dollars. After that I began to notice changes in my house, and the more I looked, it seemed like the more damage I found. My basement remained flooded year round; I had cracks in my walls and foundation and I could see daylight .My doors didn't close like they used to.

I hired an attorney; he warned me that the insurance company I was fighting would wear me down financially. But I was sure I was right and would win. So I hired engineers to inspect my house and write a report of their findings. Of course my house damage was due to blasting. This went on several times. My attorney would send the report to the insurance company of the blaster and they would write a report that would basically say my house was simply settling, and had nothing to do with their blasting.

By now I had to hire someone to install an inside curtain drain as well as replace 9 cinder blocks in my foundation that were split in half. Four solid blocks had to be replaced in the front of my house, and 3 in the back of my house. Essentially, my house had cracked in half. No wonder my doors didn't close right.

What I have learned through all of this:

? Blasting companies and their workers have no oversight on the blasting site, nor what they record for public record. They regulate themselves.

? Blasting regulations have not changed since the early 1970's, when new legislation does come up; the blasters have a powerful lobby to keep the status quo.

? The pre-blasting surveys that the developer promises at town hall meeting to reassure homeowners, are actually used against them. If they find a long ago repaired crack, and the blasting opens it to grow the length of the room. They simply say it was there before.

The only time a homeowner wins against a blaster is when they catch them on film.

When I finally gave up fighting the blasters insurance company, I was out 15 thousand dollars for repairs and engineer reports. I could no longer fight them, I spent all of my money, my attorney was right, they wore me down.

Hence I am asking you to move forward with regulations and put a stop to this injustice.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 203 888 3904.

Thank you,
Sincerely,
Lee Heller

Sincerely,
Lee Heller
34 George St
Seymour Ct 06483