

My name is Mary Gretchen Shea from Vernon CT. I am testifying in support of

HB 6496 AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN SOIL-RELATED INITIATIVES

I have been learning about the complexity of the crumbling concrete situation here in Connecticut since February 2016, at that time I was planning my return to Connecticut from a four year out of state assignment with the intention of retiring and starting a life of extensive travel and outdoor activities. Unfortunately, my retirement plans have been drastically changing when I found out that my condominium complex was one of the ones impacted by this disaster.

The process has been frustrating and arduous, but progress is made. As part of this battle, with so many victims, each with their own heartbreaking story, one common sentiment that arise is how do we make sure that this tragedy does NOT happen to others. As a state, we are not there yet. WE still do not have quarry standards which means that another quarry, or this one, can go ahead and mine aggregate with these iron sulfide elements.

The other way we can pass this disaster along is to not keep track of the concrete debris from all these foundations being repaired. My condo complex alone has five buildings – 32 units that will need new foundations.

I already must do so much to make this happen – agreements from owners, hiring deck replacement people, consulting engineers, explaining to reluctant banks why loaning money to us is a reasonable risk (it is). I also worry about each dump truck that leaves with busted concrete - where is it going – they say it's being recycled – but to what purpose? And what purpose is a safe use of a terrible product to use in residential or commercial foundations.

This is not a responsibility that I want to take on when I contract for each condo buildings. I am not an expert. I do not know what the right answer is to tell the contractor. What should he do with the material?

I support this bill because its in the state interest to ensure what every happens to this recycled concrete, it is segregated to pose no threat to surface or ground waters, and hopefully, pose no threat to future foundations. It needs to find a safe, cost effective place or places, and I believe it is the responsibility of the sate to ensure this happens, not the individual impacted by this bad concrete.

Thank you.

Mary Gretchen Shea

Vernon, CT