



## Testimony to the Land Use Review Board and Rutland Regional Planning Committee

March 25, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

Please enter all this testimony into review of Act 181. Testimony will be in two different capacities. First as selectman of Pittsford and second as a landowner.

As a selectman we want the map we submitted from the selectboard to RRPC as the map to be used. The map that was sent back from the LURB is unacceptable. The revised map from LURB raises the acres in town labeled "rural conservation" from 19.28% of Pittsford acres to 56.26 %, up 191.7%. it drops our "rural agriculture and forestry area" from 41.84% of Pittsford acres to 10.5%. This completely unacceptable and not accurate. According to the new state training manuals, the definition of "rural conservation" is land "intended to be conserved". That is not the state's decision, that is the constitutional right of the private landowner to make any decision about using their property. Most of this land that has been re-labeled as "rural conservation" has been in agriculture and forestry for centuries. The selectboard of Pittsford unanimously agrees that this should not be changed by five people sitting in an office looking at maps and boundaries. If this was forced to be changed it would be illegally taking private property rights away from tax paying citizens in Pittsford. It would also decimate our grand list because "rural conservation" designation would be worth zero in value. That tax burden would have to be removed and re-distributed to all other lands in Pittsford affecting every taxpayer in Pittsford with higher tax bills on top of the already outrageous tax burden of the state. No citizen will be in favor of that. As a selectboard member I respectfully ask that you accept our map as we submitted. As a selectboard we respectfully reject the LURB map revision.

Speaking as a landowner of Winslow Farms in Pittsford, the revised map of our farm by LURB is completely unacceptable. The LURB revisions changes roughly 200 or our 300+ acre farm into "rural conservation" from the agricultural and forest land that it has been for our entire ownership and centuries before. This would be an outrageous breach of our private property rights granted in the Vermont Constitution and the Constitution of the United States. This is without question illegal. I respectfully request these designations be returned to what they were, which is what they truly are. Lastly, we are against this proposed "road rule" that again attempts to take way the use of our private property.

Thank you,

Mark Winslow

Pittsford Selectboard and Property Owner

