

February 18, 2026

Hello- my name is Jamie Saft- I've lived here in Alna for 5 years now but have been visiting Alna for the last 30 years with my wife Vanessa, who grew up in Alna. Quality of life for the residents of Alna is greatly affected by this ordinance and so I'd propose a number of revisions to the most recent draft of the mining ordinance.

1. I think we need to limit the TOTAL SIZE of mining operations. I would like to see a maximum size cap of 10 acres at most- this would include the active working pit as well as the total AFFECTED AREA. We already have one huge commercial mining operation working in town and we need to prevent another one from opening by greatly limiting size. It was incredibly illuminating to visit the Crooker pit a few months ago and see the enormous scale and size of it- and to see how much they have taken out already from the beautiful lands of our town. It was shocking frankly.

2. Applicants registering existing operations should have to provide a complete site plan and exact size in acres with precise locations of their pits. This would establish a baseline for the town to have clearly delineated and to understand the true scope of what is happening here.

3. the current working- pit maximum of 5 acres is way too large- that's two and half house lots! i believe we should reduce this to 2 acres or less to keep operations small and maintain quality of life for nearby residents.

4. Why can't Alna tax existing mining operations higher for the value of their operations and for the destruction of Alna's beautiful irreplaceable land? as residents of the town face unknown tax increases this year with reevaluations, and as property taxes have only risen during the 5 years i've owned a home here, I'd like to see the town reevaluate existing large operations and bring their taxes in line with the burdens and adverse effects of mining in our quiet town. It's my understanding that while Alna taxes existing commercial mining operations at rates based on calling the land "vacant" the next town over Whitefield is taxing that same large operator at something like 10 times the rate per acre!!! residents of the town of Alna want to see this tax difference rectified to benefit OUR TOWN and to mitigate quality of life and environmental concerns. Trucks from existing operations constantly speed by our house- often rattling the walls. Trucks regularly use their engine brakes in front of our house and it seems like they even speed up on the bit of straightaway by our house- I experience this regularly at our mailbox. The traffic from trucks and operators out of these mines directly effects our quiet beautiful spaces in the town. Increasing taxes on commercial operators seems an obvious fix and puts us more in line with

neighboring towns. Just feels like the people of the town of Alna are getting a raw deal here.

5. shouldn't the CEO or planning board be the ones to review registrations, rather than the town clerk who has no training in land use? this seems to make more sense to me to streamline a detailed review of all mining activity in the town.

thank you very much for considering all these points and for giving me the chance to speak.

ONE ADDITIONAL THOUGHT PLEASE- this mining ordinance should, in the end, support quality of life for THE RESIDENTS of Alna, not just a few predatory private business who do not contribute properly to the town tax roll. Please consider MINIMIZING mining activity that directly lowers quality of life for town residents and has lasting environmental consequences for this incredibly beautiful and peaceful place.