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Comments: Like any issue with opposing sides, the challenge is to determine the truth - and pursue it to affect the best possible outcome for all concerned.

I have seen the marked decline of Vermont's forests in the 40+ years we have lived here, for instance, the devastation of gorgeous beech & ash stands and increasing amounts of deadfall due likely to a variety of factors including a warming climate, pests, and increasingly severe weather events. So I'm receptive to the argument for helping to establish more diverse, hardy, and sustainable forests.

At the same time, I'm aware that ostensibly good intentions can mask underlying ulterior motives, such as greed salivating at the opportunity to harvest millions of board feet of prime hardwood - of which the project proposes that we have a superabundance in the Telephone Gap landscape area. A key question: if no profits would derive from executing this project (and the only outcome would be a truly enhanced forest), would it ever get out of the starting gate?

So my view is that any such project should not proceed until an independent and unbiased team of experts, assuming one could even be assembled, has determined that it has merit from environmental and forest health/sustainability perspectives.