

Lake Champlain Waldorf School

January 18, 2017

Joe Colangelo
Shelburne Town Manager
P.O. Box 88
Shelburne, VT 05482

Dear Joe,

I have been asked by our school administration to write about the impact of the new intermodal facility located not far from the Lake Champlain Waldorf School.

I have been a teacher at LCWS for 21 years and during that time have spent countless hours guiding students through the forest that is part of the school's property and forest that belongs to the Nature Conservancy. This resource has been a major feature of the experience of the students in my care. We have seen and heard many wild animals in this refuge and have been able to enjoy sitting in silence to allow the natural sounds of the forest to surround us. In addition to providing a venue for investigation and play, this has been a significant source of inspiration for creative writing and art classes.

Since the opening of the intermodal facility, just across the LaPlatte River from our usual outdoor classroom, we have heard loud metallic grinding, scraping sounds that have changed the entire quality of the experience, both for us, and presumably the wildlife whose home this is. The sound is not easily predictable in when it occurs, its duration, or frequency, which makes it all the more difficult. It is deeply disturbing and has forced us more than once to leave the area.

The facility is compromising the quality of the habitat, and my students and I are unfortunately front row observers of the effects the complex is having on the environment.

Yours,

Christopher Diehl-Noble
Class Teacher, 2nd Grade

CC:
Lauren-Glenn Davitian, President of the Board of Trustees
Addie Hall, LCWS Administrative Director

INFANT & TODDLER • KINDERGARTEN • GRADE SCHOOL • HIGH SCHOOL

Kindergarten & Grade School | 359 Turtle Lane, Shelburne, VT 05482 | (802) 985-2827 | Fax (802) 985-2834
High School | 122 Bostwick Road, Shelburne, VT 05482 | (802) 495-0834 | Fax (802) 497-2842
info@lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org | www.lakechamplainwaldorfschool.org