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June 7, 2006

To the Zoning Board of Appeals:

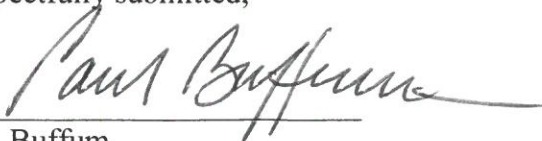
I am writing this letter in opposition to the variance request by Zahn & Sons for a gravel removal operation at Lot F3 on Isaac Frye Highway.

The Town of Wilton recently adopted an ordinance restricting gravel operations to a Sand and Gravel District and the proposed operation is not in that District. For a variance to be granted there must be some "hardship" or special circumstance to justify an exception to the ordinance.

Here we are talking about a 12 acre lot in a residential area. In many respects, the lot is similar to many other parcels of land in Wilton. The lot is desirable from a residential point of view because it is bounded by a large tract of land now owned by the Girl Scouts, which presumably will never be developed; a graveyard; and New England Forestry land.

In other words, if this variance is granted, it is hard to understand what effect the ordinance will have on any other parcel of land in Wilton. If the parcel was surrounded by conditions such that it could not be used as residential property, a "hardship" might exist. However, if the Board finds a "hardship" here, the board will be faced with situations in the future where applicants will say "you granted a variance for Zahn & Sons so you have to be consistent and grant my application." The result will be that the ordinance will have no significant legal effect and its effect will be irreparably weakened. This is not what the Town of Wilton intended when it adopted the ordinance.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Buffum
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Wilton, NH