

**April 2026**  
**Better(not bigger)Vermont**



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***A few recent Vermont commentaries worth your  
time***

**John Bossange, BnbVT's President, just had this commentary posted in VTDigger (a similar version of John's essay also ran in several local, weekly papers)...**

**You can build it, but they will not come**

**Last month VTDigger published a commentary by Aaron Adler, former attorney for the Vermont Legislature and Agency of Natural Resources. If you know Mr. Adler, please relay our sincere thanks to him for his excellent piece...!**

**Changes in Act 250 and local zoning won't solve housing problems**

We've written numerous times about the bogus "need" for 40,000 more homes in Vermont. Alexsys Thompson, a new (to us) Substack blogger and Vermonter, just published a deep investigative report that confirms our suspicions.

Thank you Alexsys!

Vermont's 40,000 Home Problem: when the math doesn't math

No doubt you've heard about the debate regarding environmental protection versus private property rights (particularly in rural Vermont) in relation to Act 181, which rewrote land use regulation law. An excellent review of this controversy was released by Vermonters for a Clean Environment...

VCE Report on Act 181

And lastly, here's a Seven Days letter-to-the-editor by Wolfger Schneider, a BnbVT Board Member, in response to an article about lower enrollments in Vermont public schools. Since it's a bit difficult to find Wolfger's essay using the [link provided by Seven Days](#), we're reprinting his piece below. Thank you Wolfger!

**"Empty Desks"** may not be filling up for reasons other than lack of housing or lower birth rates. Our weather may also be influential. No matter the size of a town, snow totals, windchills, and the expense of clothing, heating, food, gas, car corrosion, snow removal and just getting around have made living in the Northeast harsh and expensive. Sustaining essential services like snow plowing and routine

**infrastructure and road maintenance are reflected in higher taxes.**

**Vermont is a beautiful place to visit or own a vacation home, and that's it for many. Will we eventually have climate refugees escaping a rising ocean and massive heat domes and droughts occurring in the South and West? Probably.**

**Until then, is it not best that our population grows more naturally and slowly over time? We need to be patient and proceed with caution to be well prepared to manage the environmental and municipal impacts of a growing population. However, the current business community's emphasis on "If you build it, they will come" may just backfire as the baby boom population bubble dissipates with time.**

**If we want more young people to stay and start families here, we may want to offer a more supportive future of hope and equity — one that seriously recognizes and works to stem global heating, works for international peace, and distributes the nation's wealth more equitably. That may fill desks.**

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***and***

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**But we still have expenses such as our website and special projects.**

**We very much appreciate your donation, which can be mailed to us at...**

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