

Living Water Campground

A Clean, Quiet, Secure Family Campground

Experience the Difference!

100 US Route 303 East

Twin Mountain, NH 03595

603 846 5513

To: Select Board of the Town of Carroll, New Hampshire

Subject: Petition to shut down the open air firing range adjacent to the town park in the center of town

I have spent 28 years developing a vacation destination that meets and exceeds the description of the above letterhead.

The physical location of the open air firing range is not more than one thousand feet from the eastern boundary of my campground. **That open air firing range is destroying everything that I have worked to build over those years.**

It has not only destroyed the peace and tranquility of the campground, it has destroyed the peace and tranquility of residents and guests within a half mile radius of the firing range. I can hear the pop, pop, pop of the guns inside my residence with all windows and doors closed. And when the explosions that sound like a bomb go off, the ground shakes and my windows rattle. This cannot continue! This, however, is not my greatest concern.

My greatest concern is the fear and anxiety that it instills in my camping families, and that fear and anxiety is especially high in those camping along the eastern edge river front sites, which are directly across the river from, and closest to, the open air gun range. Those are the most popular, most populated, and economically productive sites on the campground.

Can you picture sitting along the peaceful Ammonoosuc River, spending your hard earned vacation dollars, on your limited vacation time, at this campground that is supposed to be quiet and secure; wondering when a bullet or two is going to come out of the woods and take you or a member of your family out. If this is what you want to get away from for rest and relaxation, you could just as well stay home, save your money, and hear the same pop, pop, pop on cable news channels.

Many of those campers who leave my campground because of that open air firing range, and who will continue to do so if it is not shut down; will not only leave my campground, but will leave town and will tell their friends about that town in northern New Hampshire where you fear for your life. The long term consequences are ominous. We might as well rename our town "Little Syria". There are better remote, and less disruptive, places than the center of town for this type of activity.

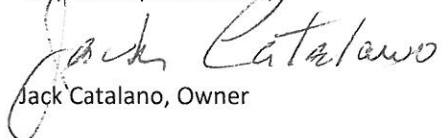
The campers attracted to my campground are law abiding families and pose little or no burden on our town resources, especially those of law enforcement. The tourist dollar loss would have a substantially negative impact our local economy.

The open air firing range has no redeeming social or economic value. Its tangential effects are in fact detrimental to the established ethos of our community. The many facets of our diverse community largely work in harmony one with another. The open air firing range works in direct opposition to a portion of that harmony. One person's civil rights should not preclude another person's civil rights; especially one's right to enjoy personal tranquility, safety, and security.

Lest any conclude that I am anti-gun, I am not. I am a gun owner. There are reasonable arguments for and against gun ownership. That is not a rabbit hole I wish to go down in this petition. There are, however, responsibilities that go with gun ownership; (1) to not interfere with my neighbor's safety and tranquility, (2) to not destroy his life's work and his livelihood.

Having made my case, in closing, I appeal to the sound judgement of the select board members to carry out their fiduciary duty and responsibility to not only the permanent and part time town residents at large, but also the transitory residents of our tourist community, to insure reasonable safety, security, and peace of mind by permanently closing the open air firing range located on town property adjacent to the recreation park.

Respectfully Submitted;


Jack Catalano, Owner