



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
**DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES**  
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION  
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January 23, 2018

The Honorable Regina Birdsell, Chair  
and the Senate Transportation Committee  
NH Legislative Office Building, Room 103  
Concord, NH 03301

**Re: SB 560-FN-Local, AN ACT relative to updating the state trails plan and making an appropriate therefor.**

Dear Chairman Birdsell and Members of the Committee,

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks & Recreation in support of Senate Bill 560-FN-Local.

For several years the Division's Bureau of Trails has worked with NH DOT, Bureau of Rail and Transit on this topic of abandoned rail corridors and their interim use as recreational trails. The Bureau of Trails has had a management agreement with NH DOT for 20 years, which allows the Bureau to manage these DOT properties for recreational use, until such time as they are needed for transportation purposes again. Having an updated plan on how to address the interim use, funding of projects, liability of user groups and other topics would be beneficial to have.

The language of SB 560-FN-Local is derived from the SB 80 Study Committee from 2016. The Division of Parks & Recreation supports the bill, provided the funding in line 18, page 2, of the bill continues to be included. We would respectfully request that the title of the plan be changed in lines 1 and 3 of page 1 and line 18 of page 2 from the "NH State Trails Plan" to the "NH Rail Trail Plan", or something that would accurately reflect the intent of the plan and the properties it is intended to address.

Thank you for considering our testimony in support of SB 560-FN-Local. Chris Gamache, Chief of our Bureau of Trails is available to answer any question that the committee should have.

Sincerely,

Philip Bryce  
Director