



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
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May 10, 2021

The Honorable Gregory Hill
and the Legislative Administration Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 104
Concord, NH 03301

RE: SB 100 adopting omnibus legislation on commissions and committees.

Dear Chair Hill and Members of the Committee,

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation (“Division”) regarding SB 100, part VI. **The Division supports a study to determine if building a pier over the jetty at Hampton Beach state park would be an appropriate addition to the park.**

NH State Parks welcomes all visitors. In collaboration with the Governor’s Commission on Disability, Parks has made available to individuals with a disability accessible beach wheelchairs at the seacoast. We worked with the NH Fish and Game Department to construct an accessible fishing platform at Franconia Notch State Park. A study to determine the feasibility of building a pier of the jetty at Hampton Beach South Park can add to the visitor experience. It is important to note that NH State Parks is operationally self-funded through the revenue collected from fees, services, rentals, retail sales, etc. Expanding visitor access to state parks is a worthy endeavor, while maintaining Parks’ revenue stream to ensure the long-term viability, financial health and re-investment in the state park system.

The study committee will want to consider identifying the appropriate agency responsible for the inspection and on-going maintenance and repair of the pier to ensure its upkeep and safety, especially following storm surges and king tides that have increased at Hampton Beach over the years. A pier would allow access over the water and may help reduce the number rescues during storm events by keeping thrill seekers off the jetty.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support for a study to determine if building a pier over the jetty would be an appropriate addition to Hampton Beach State Park – South Beach. Please let me know if I can answer questions or provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip A. Bryce".

Philip A. Bryce, Director

Cc: Sarah L. Stewart, Commissioner