



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
172 Pembroke Road P.O. Box 1856 Concord, New Hampshire 03302-1856
PHONE: (603) 271-3556 FAX: (603) 271-3553 E-MAIL: nhparks@dred.state.nh.us
WEB: www.nhstateparks.org

January 12, 2012

The Honorable Bob Odell, Chairman
and Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee
NH State House, Room 102
Concord, NH 03301

Re: SB 237-FN relative to field purchases and transfers of funds for the state park system and the bureau of trails, and the use of gifts and donations to the division of parks and recreation.

Dear Chairman Odell and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 237 that would eliminate the deadline on field purchases and transfers of funds for the state park system and the bureau of trails, and would establish a fund to collect gifts and donations made to the state park system. The Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED), Division of Parks and Recreation (Division) requested and supports this bill.

In 2010, Senate Bill 313 granted the Bureau of Park Operations and Bureau of Trails the ability to use field purchase orders up to \$2,000, and to transfer funds within accounting units. These operational tools had been granted to Cannon Mountain and the Bureau of Historic Sites through previous legislation, and creates operational consistency across the Division. More importantly, it enables the Division, a self-funded entity, to operate efficiently and effectively as a seasonally-based, outdoor recreation provider; thereby, responding to visitor needs, altering market strategy, allocating staff and equipment, and adjusting to changing weather conditions. However, SB 313 established a sunset date of provisions on June 30, 2012.

SB 237 would eliminate the June 30, 2012 deadline, with all remaining legislative oversight requirements left intact, including the submission of quarterly reports of the Division's fund transfers to the Fiscal Committee, Governor and Council, and other legislative standing committees.

SB 237 would also establish the State Park Gifts and Donations Fund, whereby the Division may receive up to \$2,500 in gifts or donations. Amounts exceeding \$2,500 would require Governor and Council approval. This provision would reduce the processing overhead for relatively small gifts and donations. Currently, all gifts and donations, regardless of the amount, require Governor and Council approval. The bill text closely follows existing law found

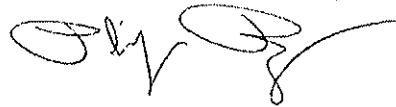
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in RSA 206:33-a, gifts and donations under the Fish and Game Fund, including the gift amounts and the approval process. Additionally, the Division would be subject to the reporting requirements of RSA 6:12, pertaining to dedicated and trust funds.

SB 237 would provide the Division with the tools to efficiently and responsively operate the NH state park system. We strongly support SB 237.

We are available to answer any questions you may have on this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip A. Bryce", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Philip A. Bryce
Director

PAB/CG/tl011112

C: George M. Bald, Commissioner