



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

February 2, 2012

The Honorable Robert Odell, Chairman
and members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee
NH Legislative Office Building, Room 102
Concord, NH 03301

Re: SB 344 an act allowing the department of resources and economic development to cut vegetation in shoreland areas where public safety is of concern.

Dear Chairman Odell and Members of the Committee,

Please accept this testimony on behalf of the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED), Division of Parks & Recreation in support of Senate Bill 344.

Senate Bill 344 makes provisions which allows for DRED to cut vegetation within the 50 buffer of a surface water body for improved law enforcement and public safety. This bill came about after an issue at Jericho Mountain State Park when the brush along the waterfront area was cleared to deter illegal activities which were occurring out of view of law enforcement.

The Department of Environmental Services (DES) noted that when the Shoreland Protection Law was enacted there was no consideration for its impacts to public parks, historic sites and other DRED lands, which need to keep vegetation cut back for public safety needs. This bill allows DRED to continue to maintain the waterfront areas of public lands for safe public use and helps law enforcement carry out their duties. DES was consulted on the language and situation and agreed that this provision would be helpful for us in our mission for the public's safety.

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".

Philip A. Bryce
Director

PAB/cg

C: George M. Bald, Commissioner