



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
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February 3, 2021

The Honorable Carol McGuire
and the Executive Departments and Administration Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 306
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 345 establishing a license for mushroom harvesters.

Dear Chair McGuire and Members of the Committee,

The Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Division of Parks and Recreation supports the legislation as written, in particular, the requirement for documented landowner permission and the revocation of a license for not following this requirement.

The Division of Parks and Recreation and the State rely on private landowners to make their lands available for recreational access by the public. This includes thousands of miles motorized and non-motorized trails along with access for hunting and fishing. We are very concerned that without this requirement, it would result in landowners posting their land against public access in order to prevent collection on their property.

The licensing of these harvesters is somewhat unique in that many collectors are dependent upon other's lands to provide the product. We do not want the state licensing to imply indirectly that the collectors now have a right to collect on private land. Mushroom collection on Department lands (state reservations) is covered under administrative rule (Res 7400). If allowed, a permit would be required.

Thank you for the opportunity to write in support of this language in this legislation.

Sincerely,

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

Philip A. Bryce, Director

Cc: Sarah L. Stewart, Commissioner
Patrick Hackley, Director – Division of Forests and Lands

PAB/ttl-020321