



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
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April 26, 2016

The Honorable Norman Major, Chairman
and the House Ways and Means Committee
NH Legislative Office Building, Room 202
Concord, NH 03301

Re: SB 510-FN, an act relative to parking at state park parking meters.

Dear Chairman Major and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Division of Parks and Recreation, Department of Resources and Economic Development, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of Senate Bill 510-FN that would allow the State Park License Plate to be used at the state-owned parking facilities at metered parking at the seacoast.

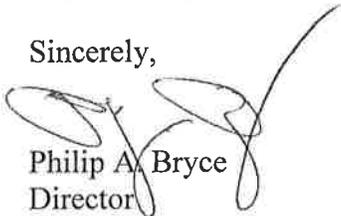
The State Park License Plate was enacted by the General Court in 2010 under RSA 261:75-c "for the purpose of benefitting the state park system." Currently, the park plate provides access to day use areas, but not at the parking meters. The intent of this bill is to allow for use of the plate at metered seacoast parking facilities during the off season when it would not affect overall revenues to the park system. This is a suggestion that came out of the meetings that the Division of Parks holds at the seacoast to receive feedback from the seacoast communities. In addition, the legislation was reviewed and supported by the State Parks System Advisory Council (RSA 216-A:3-k).

We have determined that we would see an increase in plate sales and little or no impact on metered parking revenue because, unlike the summer season, the parking lots are seldom full during the off season dates prescribed in the bill. The increase in State Park Plate purchases would support the operation of the entire park system, providing a stable revenue stream especially when revenue is impacted by weather.

In addition, this legislation would allow us to increase the fees at the meters during holidays and weekends. This is consistent with our statutory direction under RSA 216-A:3-g that provides the agency with "the ability to maximize revenues and to adjust fees according to market conditions and trends as is the common practice in private industry" with the approval of the Joint Fiscal Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB510-FN. I am available to answer any questions or provide any additional information you may need.

Sincerely,



Philip A. Bryce
Director

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C: Jeffrey J. Rose, Commissioner