

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION

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February 16, 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 396 declaring the Temple Mountain ski area a historic site.**

Dear Chairman Odell and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on SB 396 declaring Temple Mountain ski area a historic site. The Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Parks and Recreation, appreciates the historical significance of the ski area at Temple Mountain State Reservation; however, the Division wishes to relay its concerns regarding certain provisions of this bill.


Temple Mountain State Reservation is administered by the Division of Forest and Lands, and is cooperatively managed with the Division of Parks and Recreation for forestry and recreational resource values. This management structure was established at the time the property was acquired through a public process and we believe this continues to be the best structure going forward.

SB 396 would transfer administrative and maintenance responsibilities to the Bureau of Historic Sites for the purpose of maintaining the property as a state historic site. Such a change in use would impact the Department's forestry management of the property, and would overly burden the Bureau of Historic Sites in maintaining the onsite ski-related resources, such as the ski trails and any remaining ski facilities.

While the intent to recognize Temple Mountain State Reservation as one of the first ski areas in North America is commendable, the Division does not support designating Temple Mountain State Reservation as a state historic site under the administration of the Bureau of Historic Sites. Alternatively, the Division suggests that the property's ski history be commemorated within the existing management structure. One way would be through the Department of Cultural Resources Highway Historical Marker program, for which the Bureau of Historic Sites offers its technical assistance in support of this or other ways of recognizing the site's historical significance.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Sincerely,



Philip A. Bryce  
Director

PAB/ul 021512

C: George M. Bald, Commissioner



Amendment to SB 396

1 Amend the bill by replacing sections 1 and 2 with the following:

2  
3 1 Statement of Findings and Intent.

4 I. The general court finds that Temple Mountain is the site of one of the first ski areas in  
5 North America. Bill Glazer created the Temple Mountain Ski Forest in 1935 with a series of touring  
6 trails and overnight cabins. Then, in 1937, Charlie and Lucie Beebe started the alpine ski area on  
7 the adjacent property. Charlie and Lucie cleared trails and used an old Ford truck engine to create  
8 one of the first rope tows in New Hampshire. With the contributions of over 3 generations of the  
9 Beebe family, the ski area grew to include t-bars, more than a dozen trails, and modern lodges. In  
10 1984, the Nantucket Group purchased the 352 acre parcel. Under the direction of Sandy Eneguess,  
11 first as mountain manager and later owner, the ski area was expanded with chair lifts, snow  
12 making, and night skiing. For more than 65 years, Temple Mountain was a beloved ski area where  
13 generations of families learned to ski. In 2001, the ski area closed, and in 2004, John and Connie  
14 Kieley purchased the mountain and worked with the Monadnock Conservancy to turn the mountain  
15 into Temple Mountain state reservation, ensuring that future generations can continue to enjoy the  
16 mountain as park land.

17 II. The general court therefore intends to designate the Temple Mountain ski area as a  
18 historic site in the state of New Hampshire.

19 2 Temple Mountain Ski Area Historic Site. The Temple Mountain ski area, located in Temple,  
20 Sharon, and Peterborough, New Hampshire and one of the first ski areas in North America, is  
21 hereby designated a historic site. Pursuant to RSA 12-A:10-e, the department of resources and  
22 economic development, division of parks and recreation, bureau of historic sites shall be responsible  
23 for the care, maintenance, and administration of the Temple Mountain ski area historic site and  
24 shall include the mountain in appropriate promotional materials, including the bureau's website of  
25 historic sites. An appropriate plaque or marker, commemorating the history and contributions of the  
26 Temple Mountain ski area to the sport of skiing, may be placed at the site.