

January 27, 2009

The Honorable Judith Spang, Chairman
New Hampshire House of Representatives
Resources, Recreation and Development Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 305
Concord, NH 03301

Re: HB 469 – relative to acquisitions by the state of 2 parcels of land in Peterborough and making an appropriation therefore.

Dear Chairman Spang and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Forests and Lands, appreciates the opportunity to comment on HB 469 relative to the acquisition of 2 parcels of land in Peterborough by the State. The Department neither supports nor opposes this bill but would like to raise some issues of concern:

- HB 469 provides for an appropriation of \$100,000 to support acquisition of the 2 parcels. The remainder of the funds needed would be comprised of funds from other sources. The residential property cards for the parcels indicate a combined appraised value of over \$1 million. We are concerned about being obligated to raise a significant amount of funds during this difficult economic time.
- The costs associated with acquisition and management of property goes beyond simply the purchase price of the land. DRED has estimated that appraisal, title, survey and level 1 environmental review costs would be approximately \$15,000. Management costs associated with ownership of the property – even if it were not developed as a recreational facility – include boundary line maintenance, addressing vandalism or use issues and maintenance of the existing house. Also, an annual payment in lieu of taxes would be made to the town from the State.
- Our agency is not familiar with these properties and it is not clear to us whether acquisition by DRED is the most appropriate action for conservation of these lands.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify. If we can provide any additional information, please let us know.

Respectfully,

Brad W. Simpkins
Interim Director

cc: George M. Bald, Commissioner