

March 24, 2020

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The Honorable Christopher T. Sununu
Governor of New Hampshire
The State House
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu:

I'm sorry we couldn't meet as scheduled this week as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. On behalf of the Forest Society, I want to express our appreciation for the commitment state officials have to protecting the health and well-being of the citizens of New Hampshire.

While this emergency is far from over, we share your optimism the mitigation efforts underway will lessen the impact to the communities in our state. We feel fortunate in that much of forestry and conservation work can continue with staff working at home or on their own in the woods.

We've pivoted to offering online educational opportunities for families at home. Since we own and manage 190 forest reservations in more than 100 towns, we are promoting our less frequently visited conserved lands—they are free and open to the public. We want to do our part to help everyone through this.

I would ask you to consider two things:

1. When and if you determine that a shelter-in-place approach is warranted in New Hampshire, we would ask you to consider how it might creatively yet safely apply to forestry and agricultural workers whose tasks are outside and typically on their own. We and others in the forest products sector can be better prepared to come out of this if we have the chance to (safely) do our outdoor work.

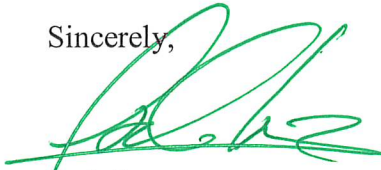
2. As you consider responses to the economic pain we are all feeling, please remember the non-profit sector, which employs 15% of the state's workforce. While I'm confident the Forest Society can and will weather this storm, many of our fellow non-profits will struggle.

These are challenging times for every resident in New Hampshire. We understand that, like us, you are confronted with new questions and concerns involving the pandemic every day. If we can be of any service to the state in addressing ongoing concerns, please don't hesitate to call on me.



Finally, we would welcome the opportunity to meet directly with you at the appropriate time in the future to discuss other issues of interest to the Forest Society. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'Jack Savage', written over a horizontal line.

Jack Savage
President