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Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the staff and the 10,000 member families of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF), we want to congratulate you on your re-election on November 6th. Your service in the New Hampshire House of Representatives as a “citizen legislator” will help keep New Hampshire the special place it is.

The Forest Society is a statewide, not-for-profit land conservation organization founded in 1901. Our mission is “to perpetuate the forests of New Hampshire by their wise use and their complete reservation in places of special scenic beauty.” We have a long history of partnering with the State to protect New Hampshire’s working forests, its public recreation lands and its natural resources.

One example of our partnership work is Mount Monadnock State Park. SPNHF leases 4,000 acres of forestland (including the summit of Mount Monadnock) which we own in Jaffrey, Marlborough and Dublin to the Division of Parks and Recreation for its operation of the State Park. Another is our leadership in the creation of Franconia Notch State Park. SPNHF worked with the State and the Federated Women’s Clubs of NH in 1928 to raise \$400,000 to acquire the land that today is the State Park, including The Flume and Cannon Mountain Ski Area.

As 2019 is a budget year, a major task ahead is adoption of a state budget that meets the multiple needs of our citizens. As you decide how to meet these needs, we ask that you consider the State’s stewardship responsibilities to care for the natural resources held by the State in what is commonly referred to as “The Public Trust.” The Public Trust includes lakes and ponds of 10 acres or more, rivers, groundwater, wildlife, all state forests and state parks, as well as those private lands on which the State holds perpetual conservation easements. The State holds these resources in trust for ours its citizens and all future generations of citizens. As an elected representative, you serve as a trustee of these assets.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss further with you how we at the Forest Society can be helpful to your legislative work, particularly your work as a trustee of the natural resources that are part of The Public Trust. To learn more about the issues on which we focus please visit our website advocacy page at <https://forestsociety.org/area/forest-society-advocacy> and please consider subscribing to our free monthly electronic newsletter called the Forest Advocate (subscribe at <https://forestsociety.org/area/forest-society-advocacy>).

Thank you again. Please call or e-mail one or both of us at any time to talk.

Sincerely,
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