

HR 44 - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

12Mar2026... 0800h  
12Mar2026... 1078h

2026 SESSION

26-3246  
08/06

HOUSE RESOLUTION

**44**

A RESOLUTION concerning the protection of public lands.

SPONSORS: Rep. Burroughs, Carr. 2; Rep. Gregg, Hills. 7; Rep. Knab, Rock. 12; Rep. Spier, Hills. 6; Rep. J. Sullivan, Graf. 2; Rep. J. Smith, Carr. 5; Rep. R. Brown, Carr. 8

COMMITTEE: Resources, Recreation and Development

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ANALYSIS

This resolution urges support for keeping public ownership of public lands and opposes efforts to rescind the Roadless Rule.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six*

A RESOLUTION concerning the protection of public lands.

1       Whereas, Granite Staters have a deep love and affection for our shared, public lands and the  
2 innumerable benefits they provide; and

3       Whereas, New Hampshire's state and federal public lands include the White Mountain National  
4 Forest, Appalachian National Scenic Trail, Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, designated  
5 wilderness areas, state forests and parks, and other conserved lands that define our state's natural  
6 character; and

7       Whereas, New Hampshire residents' affection for public lands does not stop at our state line,  
8 extending to the greater Northern Forest, the Green and Adirondack Mountains, Acadia National  
9 Park, and the millions of acres of conserved lands across New England that offer hiking, skiing,  
10 boating, climbing, and world-class hunting and fishing; and

11       Whereas, our public lands reflect many of our most noble democratic ideals, offering recreational,  
12 economic, cultural, and spiritual opportunities to all people, regardless of background, income, or  
13 geography; and

14       Whereas, New Hampshire's public lands provide defining features of our shared heritage: from  
15 the Presidential Range and Franconia Notch to historic trails like the Crawford Path, and the mills,  
16 farmsteads, and stone walls that tell the story of our communities; and

17       Whereas, these lands safeguard essential wildlife habitats, clean water sources such as the Saco,  
18 Androscoggin, and Merrimack Rivers, clean air, and natural amenities that support Granite Staters'  
19 quality of life and strengthen our resilience to floods, droughts, and other disasters; and

20       Whereas, tourism and outdoor recreation are central to New Hampshire's economy, with the  
21 outdoor recreation industry contributing nearly \$4 billion annually and supporting tens of thousands  
22 of jobs in guiding, hospitality, ski areas, equipment, and local businesses, including in communities  
23 that are near our state and federal public lands; and

24       Whereas, New Hampshire residents and visitors alike treasure the 4-season recreation that our  
25 forests and mountains provide — from summer hiking to fall foliage, winter skiing, and spring  
26 fishing — and these activities sustain both our economy and our identity; and

27       Whereas, attempts to open roadless areas to industrial development and road-building threaten  
28 New Hampshire's treasured landscapes and are inconsistent with the values and interests of  
29 Granite Staters; now, therefore, be it

30       Resolved by the House of Representatives:

31       That the House of Representatives:

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1           I. Declares our support for keeping our public lands in public hands through the  
2 stewardship of the United States government and its federal land management agencies, including  
3 the United States Forest Service, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of  
4 Land Management.

5           II. Opposes efforts to open roadless areas or to sell, transfer, or dispose of our state or  
6 federal public lands, including inventoried roadless areas in the White Mountain National Forest.

7           III. Encourages New Hampshire's governor and attorney general, and our Congressional  
8 delegation, to take all necessary actions to oppose any attempt to open roadless areas or diminish  
9 protections for our state and federal public lands.

10          Let it further be resolved that copies of this resolution, signed by the speaker of the house of  
11 representatives, be forwarded by the house clerk to the governor of New Hampshire, the attorney  
12 general, the New Hampshire congressional delegation, and the secretary of the United States  
13 Department of Agriculture.