

Floor Amendment to HR 44

1 Amend the resolution by replacing all after the title with the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 Resolved by the House of Representatives:

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1 That the House of Representatives:

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

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

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

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