

HR 44 - AS INTRODUCED

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

ANALYSIS

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

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, misguided attempts to rescind the federal Roadless Rule or otherwise open roadless
28 areas to industrial development, road-building, and logging threaten New Hampshire's treasured
29 landscapes and are inconsistent with the values and interests of Granite Staters; now, therefore, be
30 it

31 Resolved by the House of Representatives:

32 That the House of Representatives:

HR 44 - AS INTRODUCED

- Page 2 -

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 rescind the Roadless Rule 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 rescind the Roadless Rule or
9 diminish 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.