

# NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY CONSULTANTS, INC.

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To: Representative Michael Vose, Chair—House Science, Technology, and Energy  
Committee; NH Legislative Office Building, Room 302

From: Dennis D. McKenney, Consulting Forester & Land Surveyor/ISA Certified Arborist  
and timberland owner in Bennington, NH

**RE: Opposition to House Bills 219 and 567**

My thanks to you and your fellow committee members for your service as elected representatives on behalf of the citizens of New Hampshire.

I write in opposition from my perspective of 50 years as a forester responsible for the management of private, industrial and municipal properties in southern New Hampshire as well as a private landowner of 100 acres +/- of timberland in Bennington, my home town in Hillsborough County.

Since my first harvest of biomass in 1983 I have used this important tool regularly as markets have allowed on all sorts of projects from wildlife management, vista harvests to distant mountains and hazard reduction on municipal watersheds. Biomass markets are a critical tool in the responsible management of New Hampshire's timberland.

In fact, I can't think of a town's Master Plan familiar to me that does not highlight the importance of maintaining the rural character of our state. The Granite State is among the most heavily forested in the nation and the responsible harvest of timber and its long-term management needs strong markets for low grade timber. A stable market for biomass, especially as fuel chips, is critical to the proper stewardship of our timberland. And, ancillary benefits include maintaining water quality at open reservoirs, fuel reduction, and the management of invasive pests.

By way of example, a few years ago I was contracted to assist the City of Claremont with serious concerns raised by the NH Department of Environmental Services related to several dams and reservoirs on their municipal water system. The then vibrant, stable wood chip market allowed me to harvest all the trees of concern, utilize them for a range of commercial projects including wood chips, and generate net revenue benefitting all the taxpayers of Claremont.

These are only a few of the reasons I write in strong opposition to HB219 and HB 567.

