

NH Registry of Deeds Association

Chairman Gregory Hill
House Legislative Administration Committee
Concord, NH 03301

RE: NH HB 314- An Act prohibiting the use of federal, state, or local funds for lobbying activities

Dear Chairman Hill and Committee Members,

I am President of the NH Registry of Deeds Association. The NH Registry of Deeds Association members unanimously oppose HB 314. It is the position of the Registry of Deeds Association that if HB 314 were passed that it would censor those who may have the most information regarding a proposed bill. The Registers of Deeds take an oath to discharge their duties to the best of their abilities. It is submitted that providing information on a bill that may affect the daily operations of the registries is part of the duties of a Register of Deeds. The Registry of Deeds Association maintains that it is the duty and the responsibility of the Association to work with committees of the NH General Court to provide information on how a proposed bill may affect the daily operations of the Registry of Deeds' offices, how it may affect the public and the local county government. Ultimately, after receiving this information it is the responsibility of each legislator to consider this information and vote his or her conscience. This bill, if passed, will take away the ability of those who may have the most information regarding a bill from testifying.

Two examples of the NH Registry of Deeds Association taking a position on legislation this term is the amendment to the Transfer on Death Deed statute and the on the proposal to create a Landlord Registry within the NH Registry of Deeds' offices. The testimony and information provided to the legislative committees by the NH Registry of Deeds Association provided substantive information so that each of the committee member's vote could be more well-informed.

If HB 314 were passed it would place a muzzle on those who may be best able to provide information on the topic of a bill before a committee thereby depriving legislators of this knowledge.

The NH Registry of Deeds Association requests the Legislative Administration Committee to vote HB 314 inexpedient to legislate.

Respectfully,



Catherine A. Berube, Esquire

President of NH Registry of Deeds Association
Strafford County Registry of Deeds