

TO: Robert Harb, chairman, House Resources, Recreation & Development Committee
CC: Ron Dunn, vice chairman, and members of the committee
FROM: Ann Davis
RE: Kill House Bill 1440
01/12/26

My name is Ann Davis. My husband, Marc, and I are the 2022 NH Tree Farmers of the Year and the 2024 Northeast Regional Tree Farmers of the Year.

We own and manage Woods Without Gile, a more than 500-acre certified Tree Farm in Springfield and Wilmot, NH. The land is protected by a conservation easement with Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust.

I am an active member of the NH Timberland Owners Association and until recently was a member of the NH Board of Foresters, which licenses foresters in New Hampshire. Furthermore, I am the copy editor of the third edition of *Good Forestry in the Granite State: Recommended Voluntary Forest Management Practices for New Hampshire*, which for nearly 30 years has been the preeminent reference for foresters, loggers, landowners, conservationists, and others seeking to promote or implement the best possible forest management practices. RSA 227-1:4 requires the NH Division of Forests and Lands to develop **voluntary guidelines** through *Good Forestry*.

Your committee should kill House Bill 1440.

The bill will infringe on private property rights by requiring state approval of how a timberland owner conducts forest management on their property.

When Marc and I decided to retire to the Northeast in 2002, we considered properties in Vermont. However, after researching Vermont's current use law, we decided we did not want to own land in that state because it oversees management of private forests. With our passion to be outstanding stewards of our property, in consultation with our NH licensed forester, we believed that we would be the best judges of appropriate management for our land - not the State of New Hampshire. In light of the many awards and recognitions we have received, this proved to be true.

As a member of the NH Board of Foresters for nearly 12 years, I reviewed license applications for foresters. Although not required, applicants could include a management plan. Virtually all the management plans I reviewed included significant information about how the land would be managed to benefit wildlife. In some instances, for specific species.

In 2025 the General Court passed a bill creating a study commission relating to forest carbon projects. The commission's many tasks include evaluating the impact of forest management of forest carbon projects. Let the commission do its work.

House Bill 1440 would infringe on the rights of private landowners to manage their forests.

Vote to KILL HB 1440.

Thank you for reading my letter and thank you to all members of this committee for your service to the people of New Hampshire.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Davis, forest landowner
Wilmot and Springfield