



NEW HAMPSHIRE FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

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January 14, 2026

NH House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee
C/o The Honorable Robert Herb, Chairman

Re: *1440-FN, relative to properties enrolled in carbon sequestration programs.*

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

NH Farm Bureau opposes HB 1440. We fail to see where landowners voluntarily managing their land to sequester carbon is a land use in need of state oversight – as this bill requires - even when a landowner receives compensation for it. It can be viewed as a discouragement to what should be encouraged. Increasing soil carbon results in healthier, more biologically active soil. Carbon-rich soils have better structure and significantly improved water retention, making crops – including trees - more resilient to drought and help to reduce surface runoff. Healthy soils lead to higher crop yields and have fewer input requirements such as fertilizer and the use of crop protectants.

This bill dictates how private forestland is to be managed and in some instances will encourage poor silvicultural (the growing and cultivation of trees) decisions. We see this as a major infringement on private property rights. As one landowner put it , “What next, will the state in the future be requiring management plans for other uses of my land or tell me what species of trees I can and cannot grow on my land?”

To address specific language contained in the bill:

Section I stipulates a forest management plan must “demonstrate adherence to best forestry practices.” Good forestry practices are dependent on an individual property as well as on the landowner’s goals and objectives. These are highly subjective. We do not believe the state should have a role in approving or disapproving any private landowner’s forest management plan.

Section IV states that if a landowner is found to be in “material noncompliance,” approval of their plan may be suspended or revoked. What does this mean? It implies rights a landowner has to utilize their property can be withheld or taken.

We strongly oppose HB 1440 and ask the committee recommend it Inexpedient-to-Legislate.

We thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

Robert Johnson, II, Policy Director/Administrator

New Hampshire Farm Bureau (NHFB) is a non-profit federation, established in 1916, of New Hampshire’s 10 county Farm Bureau organizations which consist of 2,500 NH farm families and supporting members statewide. NHFB is dedicated to advocating for and educating the public about agriculture. NHFB is a general farm organization where the members establish policy and direction through a member driven policy development process. We are “The Voice of Agriculture” in New Hampshire.