

February 6, 2026

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Dear Madame Chair and Members of the House Municipal and County Government Committee,


Thank you for the opportunity to comment on **HB1691**. I am strongly opposed to this bill and recommend that you vote to **Inexpedient to Legislate**.

The existing Current Use law has benefited my community of Newmarket, the seacoast region, and the State of New Hampshire. It has allowed landowners to voluntarily keep their land as open space—woodlands, wetlands, fields, farmlands--for which we all benefit. Our State depends on open space for our economic and environmental health.

In Newmarket, we have leveraged funds received from the Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) with grants and other funds and partnered with landowners to permanently protect important areas. These are places that our community has identified as important in our Master Plan and Open Space Plan. We would not be successful in these endeavors without Current Use and the LUCT.

House Bill 1691 will be detrimental to Newmarket—and to New Hampshire as a whole. It creates a burdensome, restrictive, and complicated law. The beauty of the existing Current Use law is in its simplicity yet far-reaching benefits to New Hampshire's communities.

Respectfully submitted,


Ellen Snyder