

February 8, 2026

New Hampshire House of Representatives
Resources, Recreation & Development Committee
107 N Main Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Support of HR44 concerning the protection of public lands.

I Kennard Soleyn, voice my support for HR44, a resolution currently under consideration by the New Hampshire House of Representatives. The resolution validates a sensible and proven methodology to protect and maintain our pristine wilderness. New Hampshire's forest and roadless areas preserve nature and contribute to the state's economy, health and wellbeing of its residents and visitors. Pristine wilderness areas are precious and irreplaceable assets of the people of New Hampshire that are essential for our water supply and the very air we breathe.

I support this resolution as it is a framework for:

1. Protecting healthy watersheds and the numerous benefits of healthy watersheds that:
 - Ensures the supply of clean water for domestic, agricultural, and industrial uses
 - Provides drinking water
 - Provides the setting for many forms of outdoor recreation
 - Maintains abundant and healthy fish, aquatic and wildlife populations and habitats
 - Saves downstream communities millions of dollars in water filtration costs
 - Preserves the flow of affordable, clean water to a growing population.
2. Maintaining deciduous forests which absorb approximately 8 tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) per acre per year. Healthy forests are the first line of defense against flooding and land erosion.
3. Protecting and maintaining biological strongholds and refuges for many imperiled species by halting the ongoing fragmentation of the landscape into smaller parcels of land divided by road corridors
4. Conservation of native biodiversity by serving as a barrier against the spread of nonnative invasive species

5. Maintaining backcountry fish and game habitat, creating opportunities for hunting and commercial and sport fishing.
6. Providing opportunities for outdoor recreation, including hiking, camping, picnicking, wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, canoeing, mountain biking, and similar activities.
7. Preserving sites sacred to Native Americans and other groups that use roadless areas for spiritual and religious practices and access, including customary and traditional uses and activities.
8. Promoting positive physical and mental health outcomes for New Hampshire residents and visitors.

I therefore urge the New Hampshire House of Representatives, Resources, Recreation & Development Committee to pass HR44.

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