



February 9, 2026

The Honorable Diane Pauer, Chair
Committee on Municipal and County Government
New Hampshire House of Representatives
Granite Place, Room 154
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Chairwoman Pauer and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT) in regard to House Bill 1691, legislation proposed to significantly restructure the New Hampshire's Current Use program by altering eligibility, adding land management requirements and limiting the cumulative amount of land a town could allow to be enrolled. UVLT is not in favor of the bill.

UVLT is a regional land conservancy serving 45 New Hampshire and Vermont communities in the Upper Valley area. Founded in 1985, UVLT has conserved over 23,000 acres in New Hampshire: 228 properties under conservation easement and 27 Conservation Areas we own and manage for ecological resilience, outdoor learning, active forestry and agriculture. UVLT works closely with landowners and municipal Conservation Commissions to sustain the productivity and integrity of the landscape that makes New Hampshire special. New Hampshire's Current Use program is the state's best tool for discouraging the conversion and fragmentation of open space and preventing the costly burdens of sprawl in rural communities.

UVLT believes that the passage of HB 1691 would add costly administrative complexity and oversight obligations to the Current Use program. It would expose both landowners and municipalities to compliance risks and potential litigation. Specifically:

- It proposes to make municipalities responsible for tracking enrolled acreage in various categories (which are not well defined) without providing guidance as to how to operate a selective application process to stay under the mandated acreage caps.
- It proposes to constrain landowners' management activities without identifying the agency or agencies that would determine compliance and without describing the process by which a landowner could ascertain, in advance, that management activities would be acceptable. For example, there is no provision for forestry salvage cuts in the event of an ice storm.
- It proposes to cap profits and revenue from forestry and agriculture without clarifying how "typical returns for comparable operations under current use"



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would be determined or how a landowner could access that information to determine whether their anticipated revenue would create a non-compliance situation exposing them to higher taxes.

- It appears to prevent a landowner from enrolling more than one lot of land, which seems likely to lead to a proliferation of LLC's among farm and forest landowners and confusion for owners of properties in more than one municipality.

For these reasons, we hope that you will find HB 1691 Inexpedient to Legislate. Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeanie McIntyre". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jeanie McIntyre
President