

NH Registry of Deeds Association

January 6, 2026

The Honorable Terry Roy
Chair
Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee
House of Representatives
Concord, NH 03301

RE: NH HB 1408-FN- An Act prohibiting public disclosure of personal information on the Internet by an elected official

Dear Chair Roy and Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

The NH Registry of Deeds Association members unanimously oppose NH HB1408-FN. It is the position of the NH Registers that if HB 1408 were passed it would put a Register of Deeds in a position of potentially being charged with a crime if it is determined that a document was recorded with personal identifying information. Documents recorded at the Registry of Deeds are required to have personal identifying information as set forth by statute.

Particularly concerning is section IV (a) which provides:

“A constituent may submit a written request to a state or local government official to remove personal information from records that are available on the Internet. If a state or local government receives the written request, then the state or local government official shall not knowingly make available on the Internet personal information about the constituent or the constituent’s immediate family. A constituent’s written request to a state or local government official to remove records that the official makes available on the Internet shall include...”

Section IV(a) (2) sets forth that if a person believes that the personal information contained in the document poses a serious threat to that person’s safety then a request may be made to remove the document from public viewing. This provision has the potential of making most documents unavailable for public viewing creating havoc in the business of real property.

The daily operations of the Registry of Deeds includes recording and indexing documents and making them available to the public. These records include personal identifying information. If this bill were to pass into law it would place the Registers of Deeds in a position of being unable

to comply with their oath of office to discharge their duties or being potentially charged with a misdemeanor.

The Registers of Deeds request that if NH HB1408-FN is passed that it be amended to exempt the Registers of Deeds and their staff from the requirements set forth in this bill.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine A. Berube".

Catherine A. Berube, Esquire
President of NH Registry of Deeds Association
Strafford County Registry of Deeds