



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

February 7, 2013

The Honorable Russell Prescott, Chairman
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 101
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: SB 124-FN, relative to establishing an integrated land development permit.

Dear Senator Prescott:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 124, relative to establishing an integrated land development permit to be administered by the Department of Environmental Services (DES). DES strongly supports this bill, which is the product of the hard work of many stakeholders over the past three years.

If enacted, SB 124 would establish a new streamlined process for an integrated land development permit that applicants could choose, at their discretion, as an alternative to obtaining separate permits from up to four different DES programs specified in the bill (wetlands, alteration of terrain, subdivision and individual sewage disposal, and shoreland water quality protection). This new permit option will provide a more streamlined permitting process for applicants, and, we expect, result in improved environmental outcomes. SB 124 also would set the stage for improvements in the coordination of permitting efforts between DES and municipalities by strongly encouraging municipal participation and collaboration in pre-application meetings for projects.

SB 124 would not change the total permit application fees paid by applicants but would require prepayment of a portion of the estimated application fee during the pre-application review process to support DES staff time during the project design phase. The bill also would authorize DES to establish four positions within the Land Resources Management Program, with two proposed to be supported by state general funds and two by existing fee funds. We expect that program staffing for this program would ramp up gradually to the authorized level as the demand for the program increases over time and as the economy improves.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this bill. If you have any questions, please call Rene Pelletier of my staff at 271-2951 or me at 271-2958.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Sen. Odell, Sen. Hosmer, Sen. Watters, Sen. Carson, Sen. Reagan, Sen. Rausch, Sen. Stiles, Sen. Fuller-Clark, Sen. Woodburn, Sen. Boutin, Sen. Bradley, Sen. Pierce, Rep. Grenier, Re. Sad, Rep. Gottling, Rep. Renzullo

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