



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

January 20, 2015

The Honorable Chris Christensen, Chairman
Resources, Recreation and Development Committee
Room 305, Legislative Office Building
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: HB 167, an Act directing the commissioners of the Department of Resources and Economic Development and the Department of Environmental Services to develop a business development plan to attract certain businesses to New Hampshire.

Dear Representative Christensen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB167. This bill would require the commissioners of the departments of environmental services and of resources and economic development to jointly create a plan to attract to New Hampshire, businesses that require a sustainable water supply, i.e., those companies that have operations that are water-dependent. While the Department of Environmental Services (DES) is supportive of the intent of the bill, it has concerns about this bill and believes it is unnecessary in light of the enactment in 2014 of HB 1416 (Chapter 275, Laws 2014) requiring the Department of Resources and Economic Development to develop a rolling 2-year economic development strategy and operating plan.

Notably, HB 167 emphasizes the importance of a having a business plan for recruitment purposes, and also recognizes the value of joint efforts between agencies in business development efforts. It also highlights the business advantage that the availability of water brings to New Hampshire, which can be an important consideration in the recruitment of businesses to our state. However, we believe that the intent of this legislation can be and should be addressed within the current efforts of the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED), working in partnership with other agencies, to develop an overall economic plan under the provisions of RSA 12-A:62 and related statutory authorities .

DES has developed a strong partnership with DRED. The agencies have implemented ongoing practices that include working closely together on all economic development recruitment or development projects for which environmental opportunities or concerns are identified. DES is committed to continuing this partnership by working with DRED in the planning process set forth in RSA 12-A:62.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Tim Drew, Administrator, Public Information and Permitting Unit at 603-271-3306, or Vicki Quiram, Assistant Commissioner at 603-271-8806.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

CC: Representative David Danielson

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