



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

April 11, 2019

The Honorable Melanie Levesque, Chair
Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 102
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 312, AN ACT relative to municipal regulation of tiny houses

Dear Chair Levesque and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 312. This bill initially set forth statutory provisions regarding the municipal regulation of tiny houses but was amended by the House to establish a committee to study issues associated with state and local permitting of tiny houses. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) supports HB 312, as amended.

NHDES supports the concept of tiny houses and the development of tiny house parks provided that all standards for water and wastewater (including lot sizing) meet all applicable minimum standards required by NHDES rules and statutes. The original language allowed for “self-contained drinking water and sanitary systems”. As indicated in the NHDES letter of testimony to the House Municipal and County Government Committee, self-contained sanitary systems for tiny houses do not comply with current rules and statutes. As such, NHDES respectfully requests that this issue be considered during the study committee’s discussions. In addition, the amended bill states:

“The committee may seek the testimony of any individuals or organizations it deems appropriate.”

Upon request, NHDES staff will be available to provide more detailed information to the committee regarding water and wastewater rules and statutes.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this legislation. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Robert Tardif, Subsurface Systems Bureau Administrator at 271-2904 or via email at robert.tardif@des.nh.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Scott
Commissioner

cc: Representative Testerman