



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

February 12, 2020

The Honorable Edward Butler
Chair, House Commerce & Consumer Affairs Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 302
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1701, An Act Relative to the Recycling of Single Use Plastics

Dear Chair Butler and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1701. This bill would require certain retail stores to collect and recycle plastic film delivered to such stores by customers. While NHDES supports efforts to increase recycling, the Department has concerns about the resources necessary to implement the various regulatory requirements associated with this bill as currently written.

As introduced, HB 1701 would require NHDES to establish administrative rules, monitor compliance, pursue enforcement, and provide educational outreach to retail stores and members of the public. Because NHDES does not have existing program resources dedicated to regulating the retail sector, the Department would have to hire additional staff to meet its obligations under this bill. The fiscal note prepared for this bill reflects the potential impact to NHDES and the General Fund for an additional part-time employee at an annual cost of approximately \$44,000 to \$46,000. During the first couple years of implementation there would likely be additional costs associated with developing signage and educational materials, as well as travel related to conducting inspections, investigating complaints and providing technical assistance to retailers.

NHDES is concerned that this bill would require the Department to undertake new and expanded responsibilities for which it is not currently resourced. NHDES believes that assigning the bill to a subcommittee to examine details regarding implementation would be beneficial to ensure that the provisions of this bill make best use of limited state resources while meeting the needs of the business community that would be impacted by this new legislation. NHDES would welcome the opportunity to assist a subcommittee in that regard.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on HB 1701. Should you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact either Michael Nork, Solid Waste Management Bureau (michael.nork@des.nh.gov, 271-2936) or Michael Wimsatt, Waste Management Division Director (michael.wimsatt@des.nh.gov, 271-1997).

Sincerely,



Robert R. Scott
Commissioner

cc: Sponsors of HB 1701: Representatives Ebel, M. Murray, McBeath, Carson, Suzanne Smith, Ford, Martin, Riel, Luneau, Wolf; Senators Watters, Fuller Clark, Hennessey