



The State of New Hampshire
**Department of Environmental
Services**



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

January 25, 2022

The Honorable John Hunt
Chairman, Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 302
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1043, AN ACT establishing a committee to study regulations applicable to small businesses that sell food.

Dear Chairman Hunt and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 1043. This bill proposes to establish a committee to study regulations for food licensing and food safety applicable to small businesses that sell food. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) supports this proposed legislation.

NHDES believes this bill is related to HB 1312, in the House Executive Departments and Administration Committee, whose primary sponsor is Representative Aron. HB 1312 is related, in part, to requirements for food handling facilities to have grease interceptors. Grease interceptors are necessary for the protection of an onsite sewage disposal system but can add costs to business owners. NHDES received a letter from Representative Aron last summer in which she discussed concerns relative to grease interceptor regulations for food handling facilities. In the NHDES response to Representative Aron, it was suggested that a Legislative Study Committee be formed to obtain further input from professionals in the field. Those professionals could include food establishment owners, septic system designers, septage and grease haulers and municipal officials. If the Study Committee is established, and it is determined that changes to current NHDES regulations should be made, input received during committee meetings could be used to amend those regulations. NHDES suggests that the concerns raised in HB 1312 relative to NHDES regulations, may be addressed by the committee formed by HB 1043, if passed.

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Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Robert Tardif, Subsurface Systems Bureau Administrator (robert.a.tardif@des.nh.gov or 271-2904) or Philip Trowbridge, Land Resource Management Administrator (philip.r.trowbridge@des.nh.gov or 271-4898).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert R. Scott
Commissioner

cc: Sponsors of HB 1043: Representatives Aron, McGuire, Binford, Johnson, Bordes, Love, Deshaies, and Senator Avard.