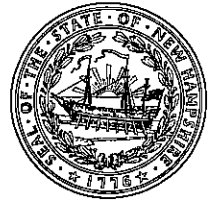




The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

April 30, 2009

Martha Fuller Clark, Chairman
Energy, Environment and Economic Development Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 102
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 384, relative to forest management permitting in and near prime wetlands, waivers for work near prime wetlands, and utility maintenance work in any wetland.

Dear Chairman Fuller Clark and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 384, relative to forest management permitting in and near prime wetlands, waivers for work near prime wetlands, and utility maintenance work in any wetland. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports HB 384 with either the originally proposed language or the language as contained in the proposed amendment.

DES believes that in either case, the details for a waiver can be fully worked out through the rulemaking process. This process would allow interested stakeholders to meet and discuss the details through a transparent and interactive process. DES would be happy to take the lead in this process should the committee desire.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call Collis Adams at 271-4054 or me at 271-3449.

Sincerely,

Michael Wells, Ass't. Comm.
for Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Representatives Theberge, Garrity, Thomas, Ingersoll, and Sanders
Senators Gallus, and Odell