



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION

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May 3, 2012

The Honorable Alfred Baldasaro, Chairman  
and the State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs Committee  
NH Legislative Office Building, Room 203  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: SB 217 relative to the management of Cannon Mountain by the department of resources and economic development.**

Dear Chairman Baldasaro and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on SB217 relative to the management of Cannon Mountain. I am going to keep my comments to that portion of the bill establishing a veteran's memorial; however, I would like to offer the Division of Parks and Recreation in the Department of Resources and Economic Development in support for this legislation overall, particularly the development of a master plan and including the participation of the State Parks System Advisory Council in the process.

In summary, SB 217 directs the Division to work with veteran's service organizations to draft a plan for a memorial somewhere in the park and to landscape the area. I would like to share the improvements currently going on in cooperation with the Old Man of the Mountain Legacy Fund.

There currently is a veteran's memorial at Franconia Notch State Park located at the Profile Lake viewing area. I have submitted a single copy of a plan showing the area. The Old Man viewing area is approximately ¼ of a mile from the parking lot where there is a new toilet building and museum. There is a veteran's memorial plaque mounted on a boulder with a dedication date of 1928. This area currently serves as the memorial site for veterans. Our current plans are to position the boulder more prominently in the middle of the landscaped island in the paved viewing area. This is being done in close coordination with the Old Man of the Mountain Legacy Fund who I understand has also reached out to veterans groups to support the improvements.

This fund is paying for all of the memorials to the Old Man which includes the profilers (devices for viewing the old man), the granite pavers inscribed with peoples names, and a series of granite benches. The Division is also working to improve the viewing area to complement the improvements to the Old Man Legacy area. These improvements include repairing the stone retaining wall to Profile Lake, relocating the veteran's memorial boulder with a plaque, new asphalt paving in the plaza, and improvements to site drainage. We expect this work to be completed by the middle of this coming summer.

We would suggest that the Profile Lake viewing area is the appropriate site for the memorial given the longstanding presence of the boulder and plaque. In addition, focusing our efforts on this site would utilize the existing infrastructure constructed to view the Old Man.

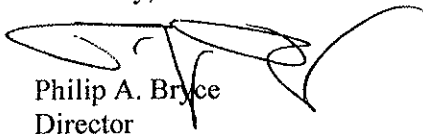
The Honorable Alfred Baldasaro, Chairman  
and the State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs Committee  
May 3, 2012  
Page 2

Regarding the provisions to relocate the Kinsman Ridge trail, the entrance to this trail is by the bottom of the ski jumps accessed from the Tram parking lot. Access to the parking lot to the Old Man viewing area is approximately half a mile away. We are concerned it would be a challenge to relocate the trail to pass by the existing memorial, but are willing to review this further along with other options. We fully support bringing as many visitors as possible to a memorial to our veterans.

Lastly, I would also like to make reference to HB1140 relative to the care of war memorial in the Park. We have suggested amended language to this bill that would compliment this legislation, and the work that is currently in progress at the Old Man viewing site and Veteran's Memorial.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this legislation.

Sincerely,



Philip A. Bryce  
Director

C: George M. Bald, Commissioner

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