

New Hampshire Association of Natural Resource Scientists
*Post Office Box 110 * Concord, NH 03302-0110*



March 19, 2023

Peter Leishman, Chair
House Finance Committee – Division I
NH State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: House Bill 2, Amendment 5 (2023-1051h)

Dear Members of the Finance Division I Committee:

The NH Association of Natural Resource Scientists (NHANRS) is a state-wide non-profit professional organization whose membership includes wetland scientists, soil scientists and wildlife biologists from the professional consulting community and from the state's academic and public sectors.

Our Legislative Committee has reviewed the referenced Amendment 1051h to House Bill 2, specifically as it pertains to the regulation of Natural Scientists. We support this amendment, though we are requesting a few technical corrections:

- Under proposed section 310-A:77(I)(c), continuing education requirements are able to be addressed in rules. Proposed section 310-A:83 contradicts 310-A:77 and specifies continuing education requirements that are not in alignment with the Natural Scientists current rules (the existing rules require continuing education of 24 hours minimum, with two of those hours required to be specifically on ethics). We request to remove 310-A:83 and allow each profession to have the ability to specify their own continuing education requirements in rules.
- The term “corporate practice certificates”, under proposed section 310-A:77(I)(f), is not a term that has been previously used in the Natural Scientists statutes. We are not clear what it means and request for it to be defined, specify who it applies to, and/or remove it.
- The proposed section 310-A:87 as written is not consistent with the Natural Scientists current penalties' language (see existing section 310-A:95). We believe it is important for the existing penalties' language to remain in order to maintain high standards, given our certifications are required for permitting by the NH Department of Environmental Services Wetlands Bureau and Alteration of Terrain programs, as well as for municipal submittals.
- In addition, under proposed section 310-A:87(II), we request changing the term “licensed forester” either to “licensed forester, wetland scientist or soil scientist”, or to “licensed professional”, in order to cover the Natural Scientist professions. Additionally, section 310-A:87(III) should specify at the beginning “For Landscape Architects, ...” so it is clear this is not meant for the Natural Scientists.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit these comments and we are available for any additional questions or comments. Please contact Kimberly Peace (NHANRS Legislative Chair) at kpeace@hoyletanner.com or myself at collis.adams@comcast.net if you would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Collis Adams".

Collis Adams, CWS
NHANRS President

cc: Carol McGuire, Chair ED&A Committee
Lindsey B. Courtney, OPLC Executive Director
Teresa Rosenberger, Bernstein Shur