



April 16, 2013

The Honorable Shannon Chandley, Chair  
Resources, Recreation & Development Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 305  
Concord, NH 03301

**Subject: SB 163, establishing a commission to recommend legislation to prepare for projected sea level rise**

Dear Representative Chandley:

The New Hampshire Planners Association, representing over 200 land use planning professionals in our state, working at all levels of government and in the private sector, takes this opportunity to express support for SB 163, which proposes to create a “Sea Rise Planning Commission” comprised of members of the legislature as well as representatives from various state departments. The Commission will recommend on an annual basis measures designed to prepare for projected sea level rise.

The NHPA recognizes that there is still some debate regarding the degree to which historic changes in the global climate are induced by human activity. However, that the earth’s climate is in indeed changing, and changing in a way that will have serious implications for our way of life, is a generally accepted scientific fact. The modeling varies, but the nearly uniform conclusion is that as a result of climate change sea levels will rise over the next several decades creating a series of very real problems for New Hampshire’s communities, particularly those located along the coast.

It seems to us that the genius of the proposed commission is that by focusing more on solutions rather than causes, it has potential to bring all of our citizens together in a bipartisan manner to work towards a common solution to a real problem instead of simply assigning blame.

Respectfully, we would like to take this opportunity to propose a modest amendment to the following subsections of the bill in order to reflect the correct names of these organizations:

- (q) A representative of the Strafford Regional Planning Commission, appointed by that body.
- (r) A representative of the Rockingham Planning Commission, appointed by that body.

Currently, these organizations are listed as the Strafford and Rocking county regional planning boards, respectively.

For the reasons stated above, the New Hampshire Planners Association urges your committee to recommend the passage of SB 163, together with our suggested amendment. Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on this very important bill.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Corwin, Esq.  
NHPA Legislative Liaison