



January 28, 2016
The Honorable James Belanger, Chair
House Municipal & County Government Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 301
Concord, NH 03301

Subject: HB 1259, relative to liability for third party review of site plans.

Dear Representative Belanger,

The proposed HB 1259 amends RSA 676:4-b, the statute that allows for Planning Board to receive reimbursement for third party reviews related to subdivision plat, site plan, or other land use application, to limit the review to only proposal's that pertain to more than one lot.

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 its opposition to this legislation.

In NH, Planning Board's are mainly seated by volunteer civic leaders who although care deeply for their municipality and State, do not necessarily possess the technical expertise to understand things like hydrology, intersection alignment, street design standards, sewer flow capacity, fire flows in multistory buildings and the myriad of other technical details under review of a proposal. The NHPA believes that the rights of the Planning Boards to require these technical reviews as part of their civic duty, without limit to number of lots, is crucially important to well-rounded Planning Board decision making.

The proposed amendment to HB 1259 will lead Planning Board to more ambiguous decision and decisions not rooted in fact. For these reasons we urge your committee to recommend that HB 1259 be found "inexpedient to legislate". Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on this bill.


Shanna B. Saunders
NHPA President