



NEW HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION
OF REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSIONS

37 Ashuelot Street
Keene, NH 03431
603-357-0557

**Central NH Regional
Planning Commission**
28 Commercial St. Suite 3
Concord, NH 03301
Telephone: 226-6020

**Lakes Region
Planning Commission**
103 Main St. Suite 3
Meredith, NH 03253
Telephone: 279-8171

**Nashua Regional
Planning Commission**
9 Executive Park Dr. Suite 201
Merrimack, NH 03054
Telephone: 424-2240

North Country Council
Mt. Eustis Commons
262 Cottage St., Suite 246
Littleton, NH 03561
Telephone: 444-6303

**Rockingham
Planning Commission**
156 Water Street
Exeter, NH 03833
Telephone: 778-0885

**Southern NH
Planning Commission**
438 Dubuque Street
Manchester, NH 03102
Telephone: 669-4664

**Southwest Region
Planning Commission**
37 Ashuelot Street
Keene, NH 03431
Telephone: 357-0557

**Strafford Regional
Planning Commission**
150 Wakefield St. Suite 12
Rochester, NH 03867
Telephone: 994-3500

**Upper Valley Lake Sunapee
Regional Planning Commission**
10 Water St. Suite 225
Lebanon, NH 03766
Telephone: 448-1680

June 27, 2017

The Honorable James Gray, Chairman
Senate Public and Municipal Affairs Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 102
Concord, NH 03301

Re: SB169

Dear Chairman Gray:

I am writing on behalf of the NH Association of Regional Planning Commissions (NHARPC) to express our concern regarding SB169. As proposed, the Bill states that “no local government shall make a regulation otherwise defining or restricting agritourism”. If the intent of this revision is to remove the ability for local review of agritourism activities, we believe this would not be in the best interest of New Hampshire communities.

Last year considerable time and effort was spent on the definition of agritourism (SB345) and how such activities included in the definition could be integrated into municipalities while maintaining the health, safety, and general welfare for all concerned, including the abutters to such a use. The rationale for allowing limited local oversight of these potentially impactful activities was to be able to review a proposed agritourism activity to ensure that it would occur safely and with minimal negative impact to the surrounding area. Specific concerns revolved around large events where adequate parking, traffic control, noise levels, health concerns and hours of operation could be reviewed in a public forum. NHARPC actively participated in SB345's creation as a member of Senator Boutin's working group on the subject. We fully supported the resulting legislation at that time.

The purpose of local review is not to prevent agritourism activities but, rather, to ensure they fit well into their surrounding areas. We respectfully request that you consider removing the restriction on local oversight from this bill.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance in clarifying NHARPC's position on SB169.

Sincerely,

Glenn Coppelman
Chairman

cc: Senator Bob Giuda
Kelly Flanders, Senate Legislative Aide