



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

April 1, 2016

The Honorable Robert Haefner, Chairman
Environment and Agriculture Committee
NH Legislative Office Building, Room 303
Concord, NH 03301

RE: SB 345

Dear Chairman Haefner and Members of the Committee:

I'm writing on behalf of the NH Association of Regional Planning Commissions (NHARPC) in support of Senate Bill 345 relative to the definition of Agritourism. We believe that this bill, along with House Bill 1141, recognizes the need to include Agritourism as a defined agricultural use in the NH RSAs, while providing reasonable review opportunity by local land use bodies. If enacted, this bill will help to strengthen the agricultural sector of our economy by allowing farmers to diversify their offerings to the general public. The result will be increased revenue to agricultural operations and greater sustainability for this type of commercial enterprise.

NHARPC actively participated in the Agritourism Working Group formed by Senator Boutin in 2015. The collaboration of numerous stakeholders provided ample opportunity for discussion and debate on the topic. The result, we believe, was a fair and equitable balance between the needs of farmers to bring in more revenue, and the appropriateness of limited local review to consider potential impacts of Agritourism activities.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment. Please contact me if you have questions about our position.

Sincerely,

Glenn G. Coppelman
Chairman