



April 6, 2018

54 Portsmouth Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Tel. 603.224.9945  
Fax 603.228.0423

[info@forestsociety.org](mailto:info@forestsociety.org)  
[www.forestsociety.org](http://www.forestsociety.org)

The Honorable Joseph D. Kenney  
New Hampshire Executive Council-District 1  
PO Box 201  
Union, New Hampshire 03887

Dear Councilor Kenney:

Thank you for the opportunity to express the Forest Society's support for the nomination of Sarah Stewart as the next Commissioner of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

As you know, the Forest Society has a long history of partnering with the State to protect New Hampshire's working forests, its public recreation lands and its natural resources. One example of this partnership is the collaboration at Mount Monadnock State Park, where we lease 4,000 acres of forest land in three towns (including the summit of Mount Monadnock in Jaffrey) to the Division of Parks and Recreation for its operation of the State Park. The Forest Society was present at the creation of Franconia Notch State Park, partnering with the State and the Federated Women's Clubs of NH to raise \$400,000 to acquire the land that today is the State Park, including Cannon Mountain Ski Area. The Forest Society started acquiring land on Mount Sunapee in 1911, and in 1946 conveyed over 1000 acres of land to the State and Mt. Sunapee State Park. The Forest Society was also engaged in helping the State acquire the 40,000 acre Nash Stream Forest in Coos County, New Hampshire's largest state forest and one that contains the entire watershed of Nash Stream.

We value the strong working partnerships we share today with the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, particularly the Division of Forests and Lands and the Division of Parks and Recreation. We believe Ms. Stewart will be an effective leader of the Department because she appreciates the many contributions our public forests and parks make to New Hampshire's well-being. In addition, we believe she is committed to maintaining the many partnerships that help sustain and steward these public lands on behalf of all New Hampshire citizens.

We encourage you to support Ms. Stewart's nomination when it comes to a formal vote at the Executive Council.

Sincerely,

Will Abbott, V.P. of Policy / Reservation Stewardship

Matt Leahy, Public Policy Manager