

# Committee Report

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

**March 5, 2021**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**The Committee on Municipal and County Government  
to which was referred HB 467,**

**AN ACT relative to current use tax rate eligibility.**

**Having considered the same, report the same with the  
following resolution: RESOLVED, that it is  
INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

**Rep. Everett McBride**

**FOR THE COMMITTEE**

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	<b>Municipal and County Government</b>
Bill Number:	<b>HB 467</b>
Title:	<b>relative to current use tax rate eligibility.</b>
Date:	<b>March 5, 2021</b>
Consent Calendar:	<b>REGULAR</b>
Recommendation:	<b>INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE</b>

### **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

The bill is relative to current use tax rate eligibility. This bill provides that land used to harbor non-native, non-domesticated animals shall not be eligible for current use assessment under RSA 79-A. The bill would overly restrict the hunting use of open space land.

Vote 17-2.

Rep. Everett McBride  
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## REGULAR CALENDAR

Municipal and County Government

**HB 467**, relative to current use tax rate eligibility. **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Everett McBride for Municipal and County Government. The bill is relative to current use tax rate eligibility. This bill provides that land used to harbor non-native, non-domesticated animals shall not be eligible for current use assessment under RSA 79-A. The bill would overly restrict the hunting use of open space land.

**Vote 17-2.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

# Voting Sheets

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 467**

**BILL TITLE:** relative to current use tax rate eligibility.

**DATE:** March 3, 2021

**LOB ROOM:** Hybrid

**MOTIONS: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**

Moved by Rep. McBride

Seconded by Rep. Piemonte

Vote: 17-2

**CONSENT CALENDAR: NO**

**Statement of Intent:** Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep John MacDonald, Clerk



2021 SESSION

Municipal and County Government

Bill #: HB467 Motion: ITL AM #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exec Session Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Dolan, Tom Chairman	17		
Piemonte, Tony Vice Chairman	1		
MacDonald, John T. Clerk	2		
Tripp, Richard P.	3		
Guthrie, Joseph A.	4		
Lascelles, Richard W.	5		
McBride, Everett P.	6		
Melvin, Charles R.	7		
<del>Ayer, Paul F.</del> <u>LANE</u>	8		
Pauer, Diane	9		
Porter, Marjorie A.	10		
Treleaven, Susan GS	11		
<u>Gilman, Julie D.</u> <u>Pimentel</u>	12		
Maggiore, Jim V.	13		
Stavis, Laurel	14		
Mangipudi, Latha D.		1	
Vann, Ivy C.	15		
Klee, Patricia S.	16		
Gallager, Eric B.		2	
<b>TOTAL VOTE:</b>	17	2	

# Public Hearing



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 467

**BILL TITLE:** relative to current use tax rate eligibility.

**DATE:** March 1, 2021

**LOB ROOM:** Hybrid **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 11:25 a.m.

**Time Adjourned:** 12:45 p.m.

**Committee Members:** Reps. Dolan, Piemonte, J. MacDonald, Tripp, Guthrie, Lascelles, McBride, Melvin, Pauer, Porter, Treleaven, Maggiore, Stavis, Mangipudi, Vann, Klee and Gallagher

**Bill Sponsors:**

**Rep. Read**

**Rep. Rung**

**TESTIMONY**

\* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

**\*Rep. Read** - Prime sponsor of the bill. Introduced by Rep. Read. Current use changes. The purpose is to protect our lands and being stewards. Not to remotely touch the agricultural world. We have two privately owned hunting clubs with exotic species. Largest exotic species hunting club east of the Mississippi River. The club has damaged our environment. The name of the park is Corbin Park. There is a game bird facility that trains hunting dogs. Bring exotic species that invade our land.

Rep. Porter: Do you know of any other current use land that does not have to pay taxes if they make a profit? ANS: Not that I am aware of. A private club is receiving a benefit and the state is not benefiting for it? ANS: You are correct. It is posted with no trespassing signs. Completely cut off.

Rep. Mangipudi: How are the feeding habits affecting our eco system? ANS: Very broadly, wild board can affect the habitat.

Rep. Lascelles: Attempting to control the non-native species to control wild boars.

Rep. Maggiore: How do we define non native species? ANS: What language to put in. I just used the simplest way as possible.

Rep. Lang: Harboring non native trout from Fish and Game.

Rep. Stavis: Amendment tax exemptions for private hunting clubs? ANS: I would be acceptable to that.

**\*Rep. Rung** - Supports the bill. Written testimony submitted.

Rep. Mangipudi: Large blue foes game preserve. Any others that you know of? Any particular that could spread? ANS: I am not aware of any other hunting clubs being preserved. Corbin Park is hunting club. It is not a benefit to the state of New Hampshire. It's a club, there is a lot of money involved. Why should they be allowed in current use? Exotic species to cause a lot of damage. Protecting our state is a lot of work.

Rep. Lang: Served on current use commission.

Rep. Rung - Served species and aquatic life commission. Current uses make our state a better state. It is stunning. New Hampshire into safari life.

Rep. Stavis: Left handed glove on the right hand. The tax status of this private club. ANS: They are allowed to roam freely (Exotic Species). Very common for wild board to escape.

**\*Rep. Mason** - Opposes the bill. State of New Hampshire established a long open policy of current use. Allows for private use for a variety of activities. Current use helps keep the land open for public recreation. The current proposed statute would affect Corbin Park. They maintain their current use status over the past years. Rep. Mason has provided written testimony.

Rep. Treleaven: 26,000 acres of land that isn't open to the public? ANS: 1.33 million current (acres) use that is not open to the public. Corbin Park is basically the side of a mountain. Current use has worked well to keep New Hampshire scenic.

Rep. Mangipudi: Does this club also have a view tax? Shouldn't we be responsible to police our environment? ANS: Yes, we should be responsible.

**Tana Gitau, NH Wildlife Federation** - Opposes the bill. These properties generate revenue for the state.

**Robert Johnson, NH Farm Bureau** - Against bill. Keep it the open focused current use bill that it is.

**\*Joseph Mullin, Congressional Sportsman's Foundation** - Statement emailed to committee. New Hampshire Sportsman generated 18 million dollars last year. Training dogs also may use non-native species.

**Jasen Stock, NH Timberland Association** - Against the bill. Is it developed or is it open? We currently have the best open spaced laws in the country. You can post current use lands. The bill is targeting a specific land owner.

**Scott Rouleau, Farview Farm N.E. Upland Owner** - We keep bees, licensed by Fish and Game to keep pheasants. I am opposed due to the vague language in the bill. We have over 400 acres in current use status, our business would be in jeopardy.

**Mr. Lawrence Keanne, National Sports Foundation** - Includes many firearm retailers. This is directly related to Corbin Park. This bill will hurt conservation. Most of the information given was incorrect concerning wild boar, elk, etc.

**Donald McFarlane** - There are weaknesses in the bills wording. The definition is subjective. What constitutes a native or non native species? There is very little you could do to change the language. Current use laws are designed for the preservation of open space. I was horrified when I read this bill. The bill's intent is to go after Corbin Park. I am appalled by what the sponsor's are doing with this bill. This bill is a taking of property.

**Nancy Holmes, AKC Hunt Clubs** - Against the bill. Would be affected. Corbin Park, 130 years with no problems. There is a situation in the south western part of the state where wild boar are breeding. This bill is really bad, and it needs to be ITL.

**\*Jake McGuigan** - Written statement submitted.

**Peter Crowell, President of Corbin Park** - We oppose this bill. We maintain the property as a private preserve.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. John MacDonald, Clerk

# House Remote Testify

## Municipal and County Government Committee Testify List for Bill HB467 on 2021-03-01

Support: 52 Oppose: 46 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 9

Export to Excel

<u>Name</u>	<u>City, State</u> <u>Email Address</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>Non-Germane</u>	<u>Signed Up</u>
Rung, Rosemarie	MERRIMACK, NH rosemarie.rung@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	Yes (5m)	No	2/28/2021 11:03 PM
Keane, Lawrence	Sunapee, NH lkeane84@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes (5m)	No	2/25/2021 5:06 PM
Johnson, Robert	Pittsfield, NH robj@nhfarmbureau.org	A Lobbyist	NH Farm Bureau Federation	Oppose	Yes (3m)	No	3/1/2021 6:36 AM
Mullin, Joseph	Grafton, MA jmullin@congressionalsportsmen.org	A Lobbyist	Myself/Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation	Oppose	Yes (3m)	No	2/26/2021 5:59 PM
Mason, Rep. James	Franklin, NH james.mason@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	Yes (3m)	No	2/26/2021 6:48 AM
McFarlane, Donald	Orange, NH PinkCardsShouldNotRequireOneToHaveAndProvideAnEm@i	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes (3m)	No	2/28/2021 8:39 PM
Rouleau, Scott	Hillsborough, NH strouleau@outlook.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	Yes (2m)	No	2/26/2021 9:25 AM
Gitau, Tara	Concord, NH admin@nhwf.org	A Member of the Public	New Hampshire Wildlife Federation	Oppose	Yes (2m)	No	3/1/2021 7:46 AM
Stock, Jasen	Concord, NH Jstock@nhtoa.org	A Lobbyist	NH Timberland Owners Association	Oppose	Yes (0m)	No	2/28/2021 6:47 PM
Fournier, Suzanne	Milford, NH animalfriendlysolutions@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 7:46 PM

Lovett, Barbara	Somersworth, NH barb124_124@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 7:57 PM
Tam, Mimi	Brookline, NH mimiktam@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 8:11 PM
Joly, Cathy	Temple, NH cathyjoly@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 8:17 PM
Semmens, R. Scott	Stoddard, NH rssemmens@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 8:29 PM
Stave, Cynthia	New Boston, NH cindy@weberstave.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 8:39 PM
Switzer, Bob	Sullivan, NH macswitz@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 11:04 PM
DuBois, Brian	Wentworth, NH bd44315@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/28/2021 11:08 PM
Aron, Judy	Acworth, NH judy.aron@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	No	3/1/2021 12:26 AM
Gabrielson, Lindsay	Nashua, NH Lindsayleigh143@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	3/1/2021 6:04 AM
Isaks, Ruth tanner	Salem, NH Ruth_tanner@uml.edu	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	3/1/2021 6:26 AM
Harriman, Marie	Antrim, NH marie@harriman.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	3/1/2021 6:37 AM
Jaroch, Noelle	Bedford, NH njaroch@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	3/1/2021 6:38 AM
Herlihy, Nina	Rye, NH	A	Myself	Support	No	No	3/1/2021 7:04 AM

	ninaherlihy@comcast.net	Member of the Public					
Blair, Darlene	Claremont, NH darleneball3@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	3/1/2021 7:41 AM
Dufour, Samuel	Derry, NH sam_dufour27@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/25/2021 9:28 PM
Gagliardi, Rob	BEDFORD, NH coachgag@myfairpoint.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/26/2021 2:55 AM
Robb, Kalla	Manchester, NH kalla.robb@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/25/2021 3:51 PM
Howard Jr., Raymond	Alton, NH brhowardjr@yahoo.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	No	3/1/2021 7:49 AM
Hurley, John	CLAREMONT, NH jrhurjd@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	3/1/2021 7:52 AM
Flis, Carole	Stratham, NH decaf12@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	3/1/2021 8:02 AM
Schadler, Chris	Webster, NH nhcoyotes@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	3/1/2021 8:15 AM
Freilich, Pam	Dunbarton, NH pam@gmavt.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	3/1/2021 8:16 AM
Pendlebury, Jan	Manchester, NH jan_pendlebury@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	3/1/2021 8:52 AM
Youzwak, Jason	Danville, NH veganjay@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	3/1/2021 9:08 AM
Heckman, Martha	Kingston, NH venturaknl@comcast.net	A Member	Myself	Oppose	No	No	3/1/2021 9:22 AM

Nickerson, Lana	Eaton Center, NH fossmtfarm@msn.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	3/1/2021 9:38 AM
Collins, William	Hillsborough, NH wilcosig@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	3/1/2021 9:55 AM
Loosigian, Julie	Sunapee, NH Jloosigian@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	3/1/2021 9:49 AM
Read, Ellen	Newmarket, NH ellen4nh@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	3/1/2021 10:04 AM
Stapleton, Walter	Claremont, NH waltstapleton@comcast.net	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	No	3/1/2021 12:10 PM
Dionne, Denis	Laconia, NH dens57belair@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	3/1/2021 12:40 PM
Moore, Trois	Goffstown, NH mooretrois@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	3/1/2021 12:41 PM
Robbins, Ashley	Milton, NH Ashleylincoln@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	3/1/2021 5:39 PM
Blair, Michael	Lee, NH Mjbnhang@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/25/2021 6:19 PM
Gomo, Aaron	Plainfield, NH Aaron.Gomo@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/25/2021 5:40 PM
Clark, Robert	Madbury, NH ROBERTFCLARKJR@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/25/2021 5:54 PM
Richardson jr, Rob	Springfield, NH Nhshedhunter@msn.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/25/2021 7:48 PM

Richardson, Diane	Springfield, NH Workingclasscanine@msn.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/25/2021 7:50 PM
Ober, Stacey	West Yarmouth, MA Stacey.Ober@akc.org	A Lobbyist	The American Kennel Club	Oppose	No	No	2/26/2021 3:47 PM
Greyes, Natch	Concord, NH ngreyes@nhmunicipal.org	A Lobbyist	New Hampshire Municipal Association	Oppose	No	No	2/26/2021 4:35 PM
Josephson, Timothy	Canaan, NH josephsonth@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/26/2021 11:42 AM
Martin, Randall	Temple, NH timberdoodle4226@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/26/2021 4:59 PM
O'Brien, Joan	Amherst, NH joanlobrien@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 9:18 PM
Dubuque, Carol	Canterbury, NH Vtweims@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/28/2021 9:27 PM
Jaillet, Steve	Mason, NH Sjailletari@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/28/2021 9:28 PM
Clough, Jean	Brentwood, NH Julesno@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/28/2021 9:41 PM
SAWTELLE, ERICK	LEE, NH esawtelles@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/28/2021 10:16 PM
Craig, Kevin	Lancaster, NH Kevin.Craig@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/28/2021 10:47 PM
Wahl, BJ	Sullivan, NH bjwahl@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 11:02 PM
Lozito, Patrick	Claremont, NH patlozito@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/26/2021 10:12 PM

Lozito, Marie	Claremont, NH vmarielozito@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/26/2021 10:13 PM
BOSWORTH, WELDON	Gilford, NH wbosworth@outlook.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/27/2021 8:02 AM
Keleher, Dan	Somersworth, NH Bearcat64@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/27/2021 2:38 PM
Groetzinger, Tonda	Farmington, NH groetzinger6@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/28/2021 10:31 AM
Snyder, Kristina	Chester, NH khsnyder22@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 10:45 AM
Sanderson, Paul	Concord, NH paul.sanderson@wildlife.nh.gov	State Agency Staff	NH Fish and Game Department	Oppose	No	No	2/28/2021 1:16 PM
Dionne, Linda	Raymond, NH voicesofwildlifeinh@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Voices of Wildlife in NH	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 2:03 PM
Yurenka, Katrina	Jaffrey, NH kyurenka@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 3:10 PM
Campbell, Kay	Epsom, NH kkcampbell43@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 3:14 PM
ONeill, Elisa	Bedford, NH Econeill@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 3:16 PM
Ferrari, Angela	Mont Vernon, NH angelaFerrari84@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Dog Owners of the Granite State	Oppose	No	No	2/28/2021 3:37 PM
Hurley, Margaret	claremont, NH mdaishshurley@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 3:44 PM
Slitt, Laura	Bartlett, NH	A	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 3:45 PM



	Islitt@roadrunner.com	Member of the Public					
Burns, Robert	Keene, NH lnheb55@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 3:48 PM
Doyle, Kathryn	Concord, NH kathryn.doyle@nh.gov	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 3:52 PM
Quilici, Michael	Concord, NH mquilici@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 3:54 PM
Zalewski, Laurie	Concord, NH lauriejansmith@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/28/2021 3:56 PM
Pike, Bonnie	Durham, NH suecross@msn.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/28/2021 3:58 PM
ST HILAIRE, Emily	WEARE, NH leashlady1@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/28/2021 4:01 PM
Bezanson, Sherry	Chester, NH sherry.bezanson@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 4:04 PM
Thompson, Susan	Manchester, NH ginsu@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 4:08 PM
Smith, Virginia	Manchester, NH ginsu1@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 4:11 PM
Glover, James	Raymond, NH Glover311@outlook.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 4:16 PM
Draper, Liza	Claremont, NH Lizadrap@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 4:25 PM
Marino, Elizabeth	Goffstown, NH	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 4:31 PM

	bethmarino@comcast.net	Member of the Public					
doyle, maralyn	Newbury, NH maralynruth@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 4:43 PM
Glenn, Cynthia	Merrimack, NH cglenn410@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 4:46 PM
Partenope, Paul	Gorham, NH partp@myfairpoint.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/28/2021 4:55 PM
Demasi, Gail	MUNSONVILLE, NH gaildemasi@live.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/28/2021 5:17 PM
McDowell, Susan	Nashua, NH weebitoblarney@myfairpoint.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 5:20 PM
Eliason, Cynthia	Whitefield, NH cyne@cmk4u.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/28/2021 5:31 PM
Holmes, Nancy	NEW BOSTON., NH fmkaffen@ix.netcom.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/28/2021 5:42 PM
Slepian, Jean	Stoddard, NH jeans1155@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 5:46 PM
Sullivan, Bernice	Wentworth, NH bernsull7@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Irish Terrier Club of America and Myself	Oppose	No	No	2/28/2021 6:08 PM
Seligman, Leaf	HANCOCK, NH leaf1231@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 6:11 PM
Beierl, Barbara	Nashua, NH barbara-beierl@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 6:18 PM
Tam-Semmens,	Stoddard, NH	A	Myself	Support	No	No	2/28/2021 6:25 PM

Helen HTAMSEMMENS@GMAIL.COM

Member  
of the  
Public

hummel, michael  
springfield, NH  
fatdog79@gmail.com

A Myself  
Member  
of the  
Public

Support No No 2/28/2021 6:30 PM

# Testimony

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:51:03 AM  
**From:** [charlie](#)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 9:42:21 AM  
**To:** [~House Municipal and County Govt](#)  
**Subject:** HB467 - Opposed!  
**Importance:** Normal

---

As a resident, voter & property tax payer in New Hampshire, I do not support the changes to land use regulations as proposed in HB 467. The removal of the 'open space' classification from lands & properties currently used for game preserves & shooting/hunting clubs appears to be yet another sneak attack to destroy our New Hampshire way of life & culture. As there are not many of these establishments, the amount of revenue generated by the change would be small, but the impact on their viability would be large. The change in property assessments both for owned properties & those leased to operators would be significant, raising costs to the point of failure, essentially outlawing stocked preserves through a back door.

I strongly urge you not to support this legislation.

Sincerely,  
Charles T. Baker, Jr.  
84 Clement Hill Rd  
Deering, NH 03244-6109

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:48:24 AM  
**From:** Scott Rouleau  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2021 10:11:47 AM  
**To:** ~House Municipal and County Govt  
**Subject:** HB 467  
**Importance:** Normal

---

Dear Chairman Dolan and honorable representatives of the Municipal and County Government committee.

My name is Scott Rouleau. I am the owner of Far View Farm & New England Upland Shooting Preserve in Hillsborough NH.

I am also the President of the Pheasants Forever New England Chapter, a conservation organization that raises funds for upland and pollinator habitat improvement projects.

Far View Farm is a small family business . We are marginal at best when it comes to the bottom line. Our land is in current use and is multipurposed. In addition to game birds, we raise bees for their honey and pollination. We plant many acres of buckwheat each year for them to pollinate and to gather nectar. We also have a fruit tree orchard, hay fields and blue berries. We are regulated by the NH Fish and Game department. They provide me with the permits I need to run my game bird operation.

I am reaching out to you regarding HB 467. [http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill\\_status/billText.aspx?sy=2021&id=595&txtFormat=html](http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/billText.aspx?sy=2021&id=595&txtFormat=html) I oppose this bill as written. The proposed bill doesn't have any clarifying language in it regarding "non native" and "non domesticated" so it is difficult to determine who it was intended for and who will be impacted by it as written. As is , it reads like an anti hunting / anti game species bill in the form of a tax bill designed to penalize anyone that has game species on their property.

Here are a few questions that immediately came to mind when I read the bill.

Q: Would private landowners that allow their property to be use for NH F&G pheasant stocking be impacted by this bill?

There are ~ 53 stocking sites in NH and many of them are owned by private land owners who have their land in current use.

Q: Are the pheasants that the state releases native or non native?

Q: Are they wild or domestic? They were not raised in the wild.

In recent history, NH had a naturally reproducing pheasant population that has dwindled due to lack of suitable habitat. One could argue that pheasants are native because they once lived here in the wild and were naturally reproducing not that long ago, just like the wild turkeys are native that were repatriated to NH a few decades ago once turkey habitat had improved.

Upland hunters and dog trainers that posses the proper permit from the state can use pen raised game birds to train their dogs.

Q: Are these birds considered domestic or wild?

Q: Would the dog trainers be negatively impacted if their training grounds are in current use?

We have Elk ,Red deer and Buffalo farmers in the state that raise these animals for food / and breeding with other operations to share genetics.

Q: Are these animals domestic or are they game? Would the farmers be negatively impacted by this bill?

Elk lived in NH in the 1700's. They once thrived here.

Q: If we brought them back like the eastern turkey would they be considered native?

Have any of these questions been asked or considered? Are there any answers you can share?

It would be very difficult for me to keep my business / farm running if I couldn't keep my land in current use and I assume that would be true for the small farms , NH sportspeople and landowners I mentioned above.

Please take this into consideration when you have the hearing on HB 467

I would be happy to discuss this if anyone would like to speak with me.

Thank you and kind regards,

Scott

Scott Rouleau  
New England Upland Shooting Preserve  
222 Danforth Corners Rd  
Hillsborough NH 03244  
[www.newenglandupland.com](http://www.newenglandupland.com)  
603-478-0099

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:48:24 AM

**From:** [randy makee](#)

**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 3:57:12 PM

**To:** [~House Municipal and County Govt](#)

**Subject:** I oppose the amendment to change the definition of open space land in HB 467

**Importance:** Normal

---

To whom it may concern,

Please know that I oppose the amendment to change the definition of open space land in HB 467. Tax deductions must stay intact for land used to harbor non-native, non-domesticated animals and should forever be considered "open space land".

Thank you,  
Randy Makee  
22 Columbus Avenue  
Concord, NH 03301



**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:48:24 AM  
**From:** [House of Windsor](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 4:05:03 PM  
**To:** [~House Municipal and County Govt](#)  
**Subject:** HB 467  
**Importance:** Normal

---

I am writing to oppose the item in Bill HB467 which states that land currently used to harbor non-native, non-domesticated animals would no longer be considered "open space land". Training bird hunting dogs and hunting pheasants in the state often takes place on land that benefits from the current "use tax deduction" for "open space land". Removing the tax deduction could have a negative impact on those who train and hunt with dogs for pheasants in NH at stocking sites and regulated shooting preserves. This bill will result in large portions of open land potentially being developed as it will no longer be able to be used for these purposes. NH needs to protect its open space lands and maintain the current status. Do not move this bill forward. Doug Windsor

[Douglas C Windsor](#)  
[House of Windsor Inc](#)  
PO Box 219  
Georges Mills NH 03751  
c.603.252.0408  
O.603.763.4171  
F.603.763.3032

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:48:25 AM  
**From:** [Nick Logiudice](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 4:05:18 PM  
**To:** ~House Municipal and County Govt  
**Subject:** HB 467 - Response in Opposition  
**Importance:** Normal

---

Good afternoon, to whom it may concern. I'm writing to voice my opposition to HB 467, a bill that would fundamentally attack the treasured past time of hunting in the great state of New Hampshire. Across the country, states allow for the hunting of non-native, non-domestic animals, such as Pheasants for sport and to ultimately put food on the table for their families. The ability to offer open space land, both public and private, for Pheasant hunting would be kneecapped if HB 467 is passed and the tax dedication is removed. As with any business, if the tax dedication is removed landowners, as well as those who run shooting preserves will bear the increased costs and pass them off to a cohort of sportsmen that are already riddled with a high barrier to entry to enjoy their hobby/sport (cost of equipment, training, and licensing for hunting).

Having private open space land (shooting preserves) allows sportsmen like me the ability to utilize private land for efficient dog training that wouldn't be possible on public land. As a 25-year-old with a full-time job, it would take me months of hunting on public land, utilizing state WMA Pheasant stocking sites to give my dog the same amount of exposure and opportunities that could be accomplished in a few hours on a shooting preserve. For example, I went hunting 3-4 times per week during the last Pheasant season (in 2020 without a dog), and only had 7 bird "opportunities" where birds were found and flushed into the air. On a shooting preserve, I would be able to have the 7 birds released in a controlled environment, in a variety of different settings and cover (trees, fields, woods, etc on their open space land), and have the dog receive the same amount of opportunities with much greater control of outside variables. This ultimately results in a more well-trained dog, and hunting companion.

Please do not allow HB 467 to pass, as it will only lead to the decline of a great American past time, and punish those that are responsibly stewarding the sport.

I have included my contact info below, so please feel free to reach out with any questions or if there is any clarification needed.

--  
Nick LoGiudice  
508-944-6640  
[nicklogiudice@gmail.com](mailto:nicklogiudice@gmail.com)  
530 State St  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:48:25 AM  
**From:** [Butler Mike](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 4:27:02 PM  
**To:** [~House Municipal and County Govt](#)  
**Subject:** HB 467  
**Importance:** Normal

---

Addressing the Committee:

I am a Professional Guide and I am very active in training my pointing dogs on land that is a managed shooting preserve using various species of non native game birds. I believe that the passage of this bill would not only adversely affect my most effective training methods but would also have an adverse affect on my livelihood as a guide and the ability of the preserve to provide me with game birds that I can afford. I most strongly urge you not to pass this bill into law. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Mike Butler, a concerned citizen of Sunapee, NH

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:48:25 AM  
**From:** Ed Moser  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 5:44:40 PM  
**To:** ~House Municipal and County Govt  
**Subject:** Oppose House HB 467  
**Importance:** Normal

---

To whom it concerns.

I am paying member of the *New England Upland Shooting Preserve* in Hillsborough, NH.

**I strongly oppose the HB 467 bill currently being considered by the state legislature.** It will have a negative impact all such facilities in NH (*owned by small independent business people in NH*) and has the potential to reduce substantial amounts of revenue derived from sportspeople using these facilities, in and out of the state of NH, reducing \$'s spent on memberships, fees, lodging, restaurants, retail purchases, etc.as well as the corresponding sales tax revenue and other forms of state revenue such as tolls and fuel taxes.

**Again, I strongly oppose HB 467.** Please contact me if you should require additional input or information.

Respectfully, Ed Moser.

Ed Moser  
931.308.7593 Mobile  
[edmoser3@gmail.com](mailto:edmoser3@gmail.com)

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:48:25 AM  
**From:** [Mark Damien](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 5:52:36 PM  
**To:** [~House Municipal and County Govt](#)  
**Subject:** HB 467  
**Importance:** Normal

---

As a landowner and avid hunter of small game in NH, I oppose any changes to the use tax deduction for "open space land" as proposed in HB 467 and ask that consideration given of the adverse impact it would have on many of our residents, landowners and businesses. **I would respectfully request you oppose any changes.**

Sincerely,

Mark Damien  
21 Saunders Hill Rd  
New Boston, NH 03070

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:48:25 AM  
**From:** [Arvid Rain](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 6:37:43 PM  
**To:** [~House Municipal and County Govt](#)  
**Subject:** HB 467  
**Importance:** Normal

---

This bill needs to be stopped in its tracks. Negative impacts to all open/current use space.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:48:25 AM  
**From:** [Diane Richardson](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 7:37:56 PM  
**To:** ~House Municipal and County Govt  
**Subject:** Please oppose HB467  
**Importance:** Normal

---

Dear committee  
HB 467 will come in front of you 3/1  
We implore you to please oppose this bill

This bill was written to directly impact ONE property (Corbin park aka Blue Mountain Forest assn) in Croydon

However it will impact every farm in NH that raise exotic meat animals (elk, Buffalo, red deer, ostrich , pheasant etc), and other game preserves

Additionally it will impact every farm that NH F&G stocks Chinese Ring Necked Pheasants on for hunters to shoot

We feel most people do not understand the Current Use program, which is about keeping land undeveloped not about human access. ONE CU category (recreational which gets the highest discount) requires land not be posted and be open to human recreation, but all the rest may be posted legally.

We have lived near Corbin park most of my life. The park provides a very very large extremely valuable unbroken habitat for many native NH species that cannot be replicated anywhere in the Southern half of NH. Removing the CU designation from their very wild undisturbed property would risk it being dissolved and sold as smaller lots

Most of our life wild boar escapees were listed in the FG rule book as "no closed season" but early in the 2000's FG changed the rules and declared the boar private property that can only be killed with park permission (We note that We've not personally seen a boar outside the fence in years ). Private property - the same as a cow or horse.

We would also like to point out that passing this veiled anti private hunting bill would open the door for easy modifications later on. What's next? All posted land is ineligible? Cattle farms? Tree farms? Any property that has agritourism events?

Is it actually the legislatures duty to create a law targeted at one individual property as a punishment for perceived elitism (with fallout to the additional landowners mentioned above) ?

Please vote to kill this bill  
Diane and Rob Richardson jr  
Springfield  
603-558-9042

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:48:26 AM  
**From:** [Karen Moodie](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 9:34:08 PM  
**To:** [~House Municipal and County Govt](#)  
**Subject:** In reference to HB 467.  
**Importance:** Normal

---

To the House Municipal County Government- State of NH,  
I am concerned about the implications that this bill would have on the available land that native species and human recreators use. Often the fields that are available for non-native and non-domesticated species provide important habitat for many of our native species. The tax incentives provide for open space land and encourage preservation of such land for both native and non-native species and for recreation. Please understand that this potential change will affect more than just land owners and the animals and people that are able and allowed to use this land.

Thank you  
Karen Moodie

1 Current Use Taxation; Definition of Open Space Land; Land Used to Harbor Non-native, Non-domesticated Animal Species Excluded. Amend RSA 79-A:2, IX to read as follows:

IX. "Open space land" means any or all farm land, forest land, or unproductive land as defined by this section. However, "open space land" shall not include any property held by a city, town or district in another city or town for the purpose of a water supply or flood control, for which a payment in place of taxes is made in accordance with RSA 72:11. ***Nor shall "open space land" include any farm land or forest land used to harbor non-native, non-domesticated animal species.***

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect April 1, 2022.



**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:48:26 AM  
**From:** [THOMAS HANLEY](#)  
**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2021 6:21:38 AM  
**To:** ~House Municipal and County Govt  
**Subject:** HB 467  
**Importance:** Normal

---

Greetings,  
Please vote against this attack on dog owners ability to work their dogs.  
Respectfully,  
Thomas R Hanley  
Goffstown N,H,

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:48:26 AM  
**From:** [donmcg44@comcast.net](mailto:donmcg44@comcast.net)  
**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2021 10:31:01 AM  
**To:** [housemunicapalandcountygovt@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:housemunicapalandcountygovt@leg.state.nh.us)  
**Cc:** [Heather Goley](#)  
**Subject:** HB 467 Comments (Testimony)  
**Importance:** Normal

---

Dear Chairman Dolan & Committee Members,  
My name is Don McGinley and I live in New Boston. Although I've lived here in New Hampshire for 22 years, I'm told I'll never achieve "Native" status as I was born (1944) and lived in Massachusetts most of my life. I'm not quite sure what HB 467 is meant to achieve, but it seems that it *might* very well be an Anti-Hunting Bill? This is why I'm writing to you and the Committee as I hold a Lifetime NH Hunting & Fishing License and enjoy Upland Bird Hunting with my English Springer Spaniel, Nellie. I also happen to be the appointed New Hampshire "Public Member" of the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission, and would be interested to hear if non-native fish might be linked to this bill. Some thoughts on HB 467 follow:

We have lots of "non-native, non-domesticated animal species" in New Hampshire. The most obvious species are upland birds, including Pheasants which are stocked in the Fall by NH Fish Game for hunters on both public and private land. About 12,000 birds at 65 sites are stocked weekly for shotgun hunters who pay a \$31 license fee (this program costs the State & Taxpayers nothing as the license fees cover the total cost of birds). I don't have a specific number but a large number of stocking sites are privately owned by people and farmers who utilize the tax benefits of Current Use; but, HB 467 here would likely take away Current Use benefits to farmers and other landowners who need CU to afford their property taxes. Additionally, NH has several upland public preserves where people can hunt pheasants for a fee. I've seen a number of such preserves go out of business due to overhead costs and I would guess that more would fail as businesses if HB 467 passes into law.

Another non-native Species found at some of our farms are Red Stags (many call them Elk) that are really non-domesticated animals. What will HB 467 do to our farmers who absolutely need and deserve the Current Use benefit?

NH has a world renowned private Hunting Preserve in Croydon as you probably know. Corbin Park which consumes nearly 50,000 acres of land surely takes advantage of Current Use. Corbin contains large numbers of European Wild Pigs as well as other exotic species that would cause the preserve significant financial pain. A friend of mine shot a trophy Elk there years ago and had it mounted in his Manchester store for customers to talk about and enjoy. Have the Bill's authors looked at this potential impact?

We now have over 40,000 **non-domesticated**, wild Eastern Turkeys roaming throughout the state with Spring and Fall hunting seasons. Our current Turkeys derive from birds introduced to the state by NH Fish & Game over a period of years (1970s-1980s) with **non-native** birds provided by the states of West Virginia and New York (NY birds equal most of the success). As an amateur, I'm not quite sure if the Courts would consider today's Turkeys as Native or like me and my NH born children being Non-Native? I think,

however, that a good Attorney could nearly wipe out Current Use benefits statewide if HB 467 becomes Law.

Last, I think most if not all animal scientists probably consider Fish as an animal. I know of an excellent trout Hatchery in the Ossipee area that raises thousands of non-native Brown and Rainbow Trout for landowners to stock on private ponds and for Clubs to stock especially for the myriad of Kid's Fishing Events. NH Fish & Game of course stocks hundreds of thousands of Trout (the majority are Browns & Rainbows) throughout the state annually. I guarantee that a significant amount of Current Use land includes the huge Merrimack and Connecticut River watersheds. Would such stocking eliminate CU benefits for all the private, commercial and charitable organizations that those non-native fish swim in? Maybe...

Mr. Chairman, I just found out about NHB 467 yesterday and have a 3 hour appointment starting at Noon on Monday. As such, it is impossible for me to virtually attend your hearing. I hope my comments here are of use to you and the Committee and I would ask that this EMail to be entered as Testimony if possible.

I urge you and the Committee to report HB467 to the full House as "Inexpedient to Legislate".

Thank you for you attention and your service to our State,

Donald J. McGinley  
373 Lyndeboro Road  
New Boston, NH 03070  
(603) 487-5075

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:48:26 AM  
**From:** donmcg44@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2021 12:23:50 PM  
**To:** Tom Dolan; Tony.Piermonte@leg.state.nh.us; John MacDonald  
**Cc:** Heather Goley  
**Subject:** Fwd: HB 467 Comments (Testimony)  
**Importance:** Normal

---

Dear Tom, Tony & John,  
I'm forwarding you an EMail Letter meant for your entire Committee in regard to HB 467 and its Hearing on Monday. Regretfully, I couldn't get the "All Committee Members EMail" to work with two different tries although I'm sure that your Committee Secretary Heather received it OKay. If easily possible, I would greatly appreciate either you or Heather forwarding my EMail to the entire Committee for the Hearing. I would attend virtually but I'm stuck far from Concord from Noon till 4:00pm Monday. If you have any questions for me, I'll be glad to respond to your EMails or speak on the phone at 603-487-5075.

Thx in Advance & Stay Well,  
Don McGinley

#####

----- Original Message -----

From: donmcg44@comcast.net  
To: "housemunicipalandcountygovt@leg.state.nh.us"  
<housemunicipalandcountygovt@leg.state.nh.us>  
Cc: "Heather.Goley@leg.state.nh.us" <Heather.Goley@leg.state.nh.us>  
Date: 02/26/2021 10:30 AM  
Subject: HB 467 Comments (Testimony)

Dear Chairman Dolan & Committee Members,  
My name is Don McGinley and I live in New Boston. Although I've lived here in New Hampshire for 22 years, I'm told I'll never achieve "Native" status as I was born (1944) and lived in Massachusetts most of my life. I'm not quite sure what HB 467 is meant to achieve, but it seems that it **might** very well be an Anti-Hunting Bill? This is why I'm writing to you and the Committee as I hold a Lifetime NH Hunting & Fishing License and enjoy Upland Bird Hunting with my English Springer Spaniel, Nellie. I also happen to be the appointed New Hampshire "Public Member" of the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission, and would be interested to hear if non-native fish might be linked to this bill. Some thoughts on HB 467 follow:

We have lots of "non-native, non-domesticated animal species" in New Hampshire. The most obvious species are upland birds, including Pheasants which are stocked in the Fall by NH Fish Game for hunters on both public and private land. About 12,000 birds at 65 sites are stocked weekly for shotgun hunters who pay a \$31 license fee (this program costs the State & Taxpayers nothing as the license fees cover the total cost of birds). I don't have a specific number but a large number of stocking sites are privately owned by people and farmers who utilize the tax benefits of Current Use; but, HB 467

here would likely take away Current Use benefits to farmers and other landowners who need CU to afford their property taxes. Additionally, NH has several upland public preserves where people can hunt pheasants for a fee. I've seen a number of such preserves go out of business due to overhead costs and I would guess that more would fail as businesses if HB 467 passes into law.

Another non-native Species found at some of our farms are Red Stags (many call them Elk) that are really non-domesticated animals. What will HB 467 do to our farmers who absolutely need and deserve the Current Use benefit?

NH has a world renowned private Hunting Preserve in Croydon as you probably know. Corbin Park which consumes nearly 50,000 acres of land surely takes advantage of Current Use. Corbin contains large numbers of European Wild Pigs as well as other exotic species that would cause the preserve significant financial pain. A friend of mine shot a trophy Elk there years ago and had it mounted in his Manchester store for customers to talk about and enjoy. Have the Bill's authors looked at this potential impact?

We now have over 40,000 **non-domesticated**, wild Eastern Turkeys roaming throughout the state with Spring and Fall hunting seasons. Our current Turkeys derive from birds introduced to the state by NH Fish & Game over a period of years (1970s-1980s) with **non-native** birds provided by the states of West Virginia and New York (NY birds equal most of the success). As an amateur, I'm not quite sure if the Courts would consider today's Turkeys as Native or like me and my NH born children being Non-Native? I think, however, that a good Attorney could nearly wipe out Current Use benefits statewide if HB 467 becomes Law.

Last, I think most if not all animal scientists probably consider Fish as an animal. I know of an excellent trout Hatchery in the Ossipee area that raises thousands of non-native Brown and Rainbow Trout for landowners to stock on private ponds and for Clubs to stock especially for the myriad of Kid's Fishing Events. NH Fish & Game of course stocks hundreds of thousands of Trout (the majority are Browns & Rainbows) throughout the state annually. I guarantee that a significant amount of Current Use land includes the huge Merrimack and Connecticut River watersheds. Would such stocking eliminate CU benefits for all the private, commercial and charitable organizations that those non-native fish swim in? Maybe...

Mr. Chairman, I just found out about NHB 467 yesterday and have a 3 hour appointment starting at Noon on Monday. As such, it is impossible for me to virtually attend your hearing. I hope my comments here are of use to you and the Committee and I would ask that this EMail to be entered as Testimony if possible.

I urge you and the Committee to report HB467 to the full House as "Inexpedient to Legislate".

Thank you for you attention and your service to our State,

Donald J. McGinley  
373 Lyndeboro Road

New Boston, NH 03070  
(603) 487-5075

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:48:26 AM

**From:** [Ellen Yenawine](#)

**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2021 2:17:48 PM

**To:** [~House Municipal and County Govt](#)

**Subject:** HB 467

**Importance:** Normal

---

I am strongly opposed to amending the definition of "Open Space." I join the AKC in my concern that land currently used to harbor non-native, non-domesticated animals will no longer be considered "open space land." Training bird hunting dogs often takes place at facilities that benefit from the current use tax deduction for "open space land." Removing the tax deduction could have a negative impact on those who train and hunt with dogs for Pheasant or Partridge.

I urge you to vote against amending the definition of "open space land."

Thank you.

Ellen Yenawine

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:48:26 AM  
**From:** Benjamin Lefebvre  
**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2021 8:22:35 PM  
**To:** ~House Municipal and County Govt  
**Subject:** Opposed to HB 467  
**Importance:** Normal

---

Good evening Mr. Chairman & Members of the Committee,

I reach out to you this evening as a former House Representative from Sullivan County District 1 as well as a former Chair of The House Fish & Game & Marine Resources Committee.

I write to you on behalf of sportsmen and women throughout the State of New Hampshire who have major concerns with the broad scope of HB 467 and how this would impact open space and habitat that is beneficial to all wildlife in our State. As you know, open space with suitable nesting, breeding, eating and bedding for wildlife is ever shrinking as our communities expand.

HB 467 would make it all but impossible for private landowners who raise and release game birds for the benefit of sportsmen & women to maintain their open space for this purpose. This includes not only private preserves but also private farm land and mixed forest that the State of NH has acquired permission for the public to access for recreation and for Fish and Game to release game birds as part of their current program.

I urge the committee to look past the short sightedness of this bill and consider the potential impact this would have on the thousands of acres of current private open space that provides critical and ever fleeting habitat for all wildlife that we hold in the public trust. Please send HB 467 to the House floor with a recommendation of Inexpedient to Legislate or consider amendments to rectify this damaging possibility.

Thank you for your time and your service. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

--

Ben Lefebvre  
17 West Hill Road  
Brookline, NH  
603 677 2722  
[bplefebvre@gmail.com](mailto:bplefebvre@gmail.com)



**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:48:26 AM  
**From:** [Richard Kingston](#)  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 2:10:21 PM  
**To:** [~House Municipal and County Govt](#)  
**Subject:** HB 467  
**Importance:** Normal

---

I would like to register my opposition to the changes as listed in HB 467.

Richard Kingston, DVM PhD  
Epsom NH 03234

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:48:26 AM

**From:** [LSLITT@roadrunner.com](mailto:LSLITT@roadrunner.com)

**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 3:58:25 PM

**To:** ~House Municipal and County Govt

**Subject:** HB 467 Corbin Park I STRONGLY Support Removing Tax Deductions and CLOSE IT!

**Importance:** Normal

---

Dear New Hampshire Representatives,

When I was a child, long ago, and was traumatized, as many children are today, my family took me to visit my cousins with dogs until we got one. They also gave me stuffed animals to hold which is common place with children who innately love and have compassion for animals.

What I'd later come to know and be traumatized by is that a society that allows killing of animals in so many ways, is a very unwell society given the wounds it inflicts upon us all, especially the animals being killed. I've studied the anthropology of the human/animal violence connection for many years and conclude that our relationship with animals has shaped humanity and tragically, for the multiple symptoms of cruelty and predatory violence that comes with normalizing Theriocide, the killing of animals.

For this reason and so many others, I implore you to remove any tax deductions for Corbin Park unless the owners allow it to become a sanctuary over a slaughterhouse. It's time society asked itself which behavior and mind set makes us safer and a more humane, just, compassionate nation, teaching mercy, kindness and compassion, or the traits that involve killing innocent beings totally incapable of defense, as this place encourages.

NO tax deductions for places that do cruelty to animals!

Sincerely,

Laura Slitt  
Bartlett, NH  
603-374-5006

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:48:26 AM  
**From:** [Helen Tam-Semmens](#)  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 7:12:30 PM  
**To:** ~House Municipal and County Govt  
**Subject:** Support HB 467  
**Importance:** Normal

---

As a member of my town's Conservation Commission, I urge you to support HB 467!

Using forest land to harbor non-native non-domesticated animal species does not align with conservation, and can upset the equilibrium of the ecosystem. Therefore, it should not be encouraged or subsidized by NH taxpayers by enjoying a lower tax rate (current use tax rate).

Harboring non-native non-domesticated animal species in forest land is essentially for canned hunting, which has NO conservation value.

A 2015 poll shows that 74% of US citizens are opposed to canned hunting. There is no reason to believe NH residents think differently.

I strongly urge you to do the right thing by closing the tax loophole and support this bill.

Sincerely,  
Helen Tam-Semmens  
Stoddard, NH  
603-446-7848

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:48:26 AM  
**From:** [Paul Partenope](#)  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 8:00:09 PM  
**To:** [~House Municipal and County Govt](#)  
**Subject:** HB 467  
**Importance:** Normal

---

HB 467 would remove the **use tax deduction** for **open space land** that currently is in place. This will have a negative impact on those who train and hunt with bird dogs as they use this open space land for that purpose.

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:48:26 AM  
**From:** [Tom Angelosanto](#)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 3, 2021 10:10:39 AM  
**To:** ~House Municipal and County Govt  
**Subject:** HB 467  
**Importance:** High

---

Dear Sirs:

HB 467 would be a disaster for New Hampshire Sportsmen and women! People devote their lives to training and raising bird dogs. This bill would outlaw the state from stocking pheasants on private land. Pheasant hunters have lost plenty of good hunting areas over the last 20 or 30 years. Please do not stick a knife into the back of sportsmen like myself. I don't understand what the obsession is about pecking away at our rights. Sportspeople represent a large block of voters. Please defeat this bill. Thank you.

Thomas Angelosanto

69 Floyd Rd.

Derry, NH, 03038

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:48:26 AM

**From:** [Stacey Ober](#)

**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2021 10:50:14 AM

**To:** ~House Municipal and County Govt

**Subject:** AKC opposes H.467

**Importance:** Normal

**Attachments:**

Testimony HB 467 relative to current use tax rate eligibility 3.1.21.pdf ;

---

Good morning House Committee on Municipal and County Government,

Attached please find testimony regarding AKC's concerns with H. 467, scheduled for a public hearing on Monday, March 1, 2021.

Thank you,

**Stacey Ober, J.D.**

Legislative Analyst & Community Outreach, New England Region  
Government Relations



t: 919-816-3348 | e: [stacey.ober@akc.org](mailto:stacey.ober@akc.org)

*A Salute to AKC's Canine Health Foundation! Celebrating 25 Years with \$59.5 million funded to improve the health of all dogs and their owners through scientific research and dissemination of health information to prevent, treat and cure canine disease. [www.akcchf.org](http://www.akcchf.org)*

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:48:26 AM

**From:** [Joseph Mullin](#)

**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2021 5:57:41 PM

**To:** ~House Municipal and County Govt

**Subject:** CSF Testimony-HB 467-Oppose

**Importance:** Normal

**Attachments:**

CSF Testimony-HB 467-Oppose.pdf ;

---

Honorable Members of the House Municipal and County Government Committee:

With regard to next week's hearing on House Bill 467, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation is submitting the attached letter of opposition for your consideration. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Thanks,

**Joseph Mullin** | Assistant Manager, Northeastern States and States Program Assistant |  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
110 North Carolina Avenue, SE | Washington, D.C. 20003  
O: 202-543-6850 x20 | C: 202-253-6883 | [www.congressionalsportsmen.org](http://www.congressionalsportsmen.org)



**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:43:09 AM  
**From:** [Kalla Robb](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 3:56:26 PM  
**To:** [~House Municipal and County Govt](#)  
**Subject:** HB467  
**Importance:** Normal

---

I do not support this bill because it will change the way that people can train their hunting dogs. currently open space land allows those facilities to get the tax deductions if this is changed it could mean the start of the end of bird dogs.

Thank you

Kalla



**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:43:09 AM  
**From:** Veilleux, Joseph  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 5:42:24 PM  
**To:** ~House Municipal and County Govt  
**Subject:** Oppose HB467  
**Importance:** Normal

---

I am opposed to this change in the Law.  
Please vote against HB467. It would negatively impact those who wish to participate in this outdoor recreation.

Respectfully,  
Joe Veilleux

Bankers Life Securities, Inc. *only* accepts verbal orders and/or instructions. Verbal instructions ***do not include email, voicemail, fax or any alternate method.*** Any information provided is for informational purposes only and does not constitute a recommendation.

Bankers Life is a marketing brand of various subsidiaries of CNO Financial Group, Inc., including Bankers Life Securities, Inc., Bankers Life Advisory Services, Inc. and Bankers Life and Casualty Company..

Non affiliated insurance products offered through Bankers Life Securities General Agency, Inc. Securities and variable annuities offered through **Bankers Life Securities, Inc.** FINRA/SIPC, (dba BL Securities, Inc., AL, GA, IA, IL, MI, NV, PA). Advisory products and services are offered by Bankers Life Advisory Services, Inc. SEC Registered Investment Adviser (dba BL Advisory Services, Inc., AL, GA, IA, MT, NV, PA).

**Investments are: Not Guaranteed, Involve Risk, May Lose Value.**

Bankers Life Securities and Bankers Life Advisory Services Customer Call Center: (844) 553-9083

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:43:09 AM  
**From:** [Charlene Truell](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 6:34:55 PM  
**To:** [~House Municipal and County Govt](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: HB467  
**Importance:** Normal

---

Sent from Charlene Truell

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Charlene Truell <ctruellnewport@aol.com>  
**Date:** February 25, 2021 at 5:43:17 PM EST  
**To:** HouseMunicipalLandCountyGovt@leg.state.nh.us  
**Subject:** **HB467**

We strongly oppose HB467, we are not members of these big game places but we are members of the Claremont beagle club and and afraid it would come after is next.  
Taxes in this state are high enough as it is.  
Bruce and Charlene Truell

Sent from Charlene Truell

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:43:09 AM  
**From:** [Diane Richardson](#)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 7:37:56 PM  
**To:** ~House Municipal and County Govt  
**Subject:** Please oppose HB467  
**Importance:** Normal

---

Dear committee  
HB 467 will come in front of you 3/1  
We implore you to please oppose this bill

This bill was written to directly impact ONE property (Corbin park aka Blue Mountain Forest assn) in Croydon

However it will impact every farm in NH that raise exotic meat animals (elk, Buffalo, red deer, ostrich , pheasant etc), and other game preserves

Additionally it will impact every farm that NH F&G stocks Chinese Ring Necked Pheasants on for hunters to shoot

We feel most people do not understand the Current Use program, which is about keeping land undeveloped not about human access. ONE CU category (recreational which gets the highest discount) requires land not be posted and be open to human recreation, but all the rest may be posted legally.

We have lived near Corbin park most of my life. The park provides a very very large extremely valuable unbroken habitat for many native NH species that cannot be replicated anywhere in the Southern half of NH. Removing the CU designation from their very wild undisturbed property would risk it being dissolved and sold as smaller lots

Most of our life wild boar escapees were listed in the FG rule book as "no closed season" but early in the 2000's FG changed the rules and declared the boar private property that can only be killed with park permission (We note that We've not personally seen a boar outside the fence in years ). Private property - the same as a cow or horse.

We would also like to point out that passing this veiled anti private hunting bill would open the door for easy modifications later on. What's next? All posted land is ineligible? Cattle farms? Tree farms? Any property that has agritourism events?

Is it actually the legislatures duty to create a law targeted at one individual property as a punishment for perceived elitism (with fallout to the additional landowners mentioned above) ?

Please vote to kill this bill  
Diane and Rob Richardson jr  
Springfield  
603-558-9042

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:43:09 AM  
**From:** Deb  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 7:56:50 PM  
**To:** ~House Municipal and County Govt; Susan Homola  
**Subject:** Please oppose HB467  
**Importance:** Normal

---

Folks,

I would like to ask that HB647 be deemed "inexpediant to legislate".

The Bill proposes to amend RSA 79-A by restricting the definition of "open space land" as respects Current Use Tax Rate to exclude any farm land or forest land used to harbor non-native, non-domesticated animal species.

Training bird hunting dogs and hunting pheasants in NH often takes place on land that benefits from the current "use tax deduction" for "open space land". Pheasant are not native to NH. Removing the tax deduction could have a negative impact on those who train and hunt with dogs for pheasants in NH at stocking sites and regulated shooting preserves.

Do we really need to put forth more regulation and tighter restrictions on Current Use Tax here in NH? We don't. Let's allow the landowners to continue to manage their land under the Current Use Tax law that has been on our books for decades.

Thank you for your time & consideration,

Deborah Carroll

Hollis, NH

603-321-5978

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:43:09 AM  
**From:** [Jordan, Bruce](#)  
**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2021 8:43:33 AM  
**To:** ~House Municipal and County Govt  
**Subject:** HB467  
**Importance:** Normal

---

My name is Bruce Jordan, I live in Canterbury. I would like to voice my opposition to House Bill 467. I have lived in NH all my life, this will not serve the people in NH well

Thank you

Bruce Jordan

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:43:09 AM  
**From:** [Donald E Vandenberg](#)  
**Sent:** Friday, February 26, 2021 3:02:55 PM  
**To:** [~House Municipal and County Govt](#)  
**Subject:** HB467  
**Importance:** Normal

---

To Whom it may concern:

My name is Don Vandenberg and am greatly concerned with HB467 and what it may do to my quality of life here in New Hampshire. I love to bird hunt with my Labrador retriever companion Jack. Every week from January through March we travel to hunt pheasants and train in the off season on birds to hone Jack's skill. This bill does not fit the nature of the New Hampshire spirit of allowing residents the freedom to enjoy the great outdoors and attempts to 'citify' our great state. Please vote down HB467.

Respectfully,  
Don Vandenberg

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:43:09 AM  
**From:** [Wes Reed](#)  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 7:16:19 AM  
**To:** [~House Municipal and County Govt](#)  
**Subject:** HB467  
**Importance:** Normal

---

As an avid Hunter and hunting dog trainer, I oppose this bill.

Wes Reed  
Rise and Shine Retrievers

Sent from my iPhone

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:43:10 AM  
**From:** [Mary Ann Donovan](#)  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 27, 2021 1:49:36 PM  
**To:** [~House Municipal and County Govt](#)  
**Subject:** HB467  
**Importance:** Normal

---

I am writing to oppose passage of HB467 – Amending the Definition of ‘Open Space Land’ that would remove the ‘current use tax deduction’ for ‘open space’ land.

Mary Ann Donovan  
Concord, NH 03301

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10




**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:43:10 AM  
**From:** [charlie](#)  
**Sent:** Monday, March 1, 2021 9:42:21 AM  
**To:** ~House Municipal and County Govt  
**Subject:** HB467 - Opposed!  
**Importance:** Normal

---

As a resident, voter & property tax payer in New Hampshire, I do not support the changes to land use regulations as proposed in HB 467. The removal of the 'open space' classification from lands & properties currently used for game preserves & shooting/hunting clubs appears to be yet another sneak attack to destroy our New Hampshire way of life & culture. As there are not many of these establishments, the amount of revenue generated by the change would be small, but the impact on their viability would be large. The change in property assessments both for owned properties & those leased to operators would be significant, raising costs to the point of failure, essentially outlawing stocked preserves through a back door.

I strongly urge you not to support this legislation.

Sincerely,  
Charles T. Baker, Jr.  
84 Clement Hill Rd  
Deering, NH 03244-6109

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:43:10 AM  
**From:** James Mason  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 9:03:01 AM  
**To:** ~House Municipal and County Govt  
**Subject:** HB467 ITL  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Attachments:**  
[HB467 Testimony.pdf](#) 

---

Honorable Tom Dolan & Honorable Committee Members,

Tom,

Attached have attached testimony concerning this bill. I plan to submit oral testimony as well. Any questions are welcome.

Thanks

Jim

Rep. James Mason ME-02  
[jimmason.nhstaterep@gmail.com](mailto:jimmason.nhstaterep@gmail.com)  
(603) 998-4533 cell



**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:43:10 AM

**From:** [Sanderson, Paul](#)

**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 1:17:10 PM

**To:** ~House Municipal and County Govt

**Subject:** NH House Remote Testify: 10:30 am - HB467 in House Municipal and County Government

**Importance:** Normal

**Attachments:**

[Testimony hb 467 on 3-1-21.docx](#) 

---

Please find the testimony of the NH Fish and Game Department in opposition to HB 467.

Paul G. Sanderson  
Legal Coordinator  
NH Fish and Game

**Archived:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 8:43:10 AM

**From:** [Rosemarie Rung](#)

**Sent:** Sunday, February 28, 2021 11:56:52 PM

**To:** ~House Municipal and County Govt

**Cc:** [Ellen Read](#)

**Subject:** Testimony for HB467

**Importance:** Normal

**Attachments:**

[HB467.docx](#) 

---

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this message finds you all well. I'm attaching my written testimony for tomorrow's public hearing for HB467. I plan on testifying to the bill, but there may be chance that a family situation may prevent me for doing so. In that event, I will miss "seeing" all of you and welcome your questions nevertheless.

Warm regards,

Rosemarie Rung

NH State Representative

Merrimack (Hillsborough 21)

603.424.6664

Municipal and County Government House Committee  
HB 467  
February 27, 2021

Honorable Tom Dolan, Chairman & Honorable Members:


***I am in opposition to HB467 and ask you to motion and vote ITL.*** NH Current Land Use was developed by this General Court in 1973. The spirit of the law is to save NH's open space by allowing private landowners an affordable tax base for rural land usage. It has an established, long-proven track record of success in our State. Current Use tax strategy works congruently, maintaining open land while reducing urban sprawl, resulting in protecting of our privately owned forests, agricultural lands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. Additional incentives are allowed for a forestry stewardship program, thus creates enhanced timber yield and quality. At harvest time this results in increased timber tax revenue. It also plays a significant roll providing views and vistas creating a kaleidoscope of charm and charisma attracting tourists to our State. It has successfully added private land use trespass giving opportunity for recreational hikers, skiers, cyclists, water recreation, ATV's, snowmobiles, bird watching, wildlife viewing, hunting, and fishing to name a few. Landowners have the right to keep their land closed by paying a higher tax rate. Our Current Land Use program creates far more tax revenue than burden, as open land needs few services. The tax incentives for these property owners helps keep their private open land intact. Since established, the program has protected an estimated half of our 5.74 million acres, and further estimates half of this land is open for public recreation. Our Current Land Use program has been examined and has stood the tested time, rightfully protected as Legislature continues to make the right choice of sheltering this established current program.

By the proposed amended inclusion, ***"Nor shall "open space land" include any farmland or forestland used to harbor not-native, non-domesticated animal species."*** opens a pandoras box that jeopardizes many of our citizens open space commitment and the spirit of the law. Places like Corbin Park, a private 26,000 acre preserve established in 1890 maintains such non-native species would be forced to end their Current Use status. The park managed for 130 years a population of non-native wildlife with recreational hunting harvest by its owners and guests. Corbin's open space land practices wildlife and forestry management, along with wetland protection creating habitat for both non-native and native wildlife. Corbin Park has worked with NH foresters, and loggers generating jobs and timber tax revenue. Their forest releases result in additional habitat, natural feed for both native and non-native species. The park maintains its Current Use status well within the spirit of the current law. (This is no different than someone recreational cross-country skiing on their owned Current Use Land!) Corbin may survive this incurred legislation tax burden of HB467 but at the same time ***HB467 would have unilateral devastating impact on many NH landowners.*** NH's has additional upland preserves, that use non-native upland gamebird species, regulated by NHF&G licensing, would be affected. They promote similar land management practices maintaining excellent habitat for both non-native and native species. These preserves are membership based, with family focus, and open to the public. They provide countless hours of outdoor experience for many NH families and draw out of state sportsmen as well. These preserves offer a wide range of experiences and work hand-in-hand with clubs and groups providing a safe non-crowded environment for the recreational shooter, hunter, and dog trainers alike. In addition, NHF&G currently has 21 licensed non-native species game propagation growers in NH. Many who would be forced to forfeit their Current Land Use tax credit or give up their passion. NH sport dog owners and trainers use other Current Use lands throughout the state often trained with live birds.

Some of these dogs are used for field trial competitions throughout the United States and abroad. NHF&G stock pheasants on 13 private regulated shooting areas. For these landowners, to retain their Current Use tax credits, would be forced to close their land to public use, ending their cooperative use with NHF&G's jeopardizing the pheasant program. **Furthermore, there are countless addition non-native species that habitat and seek harbor. Example it the rock pigeon, European starling, house finch, brown and rainbow trout. State pigeon clubs exist, use homing flight pens releasing them on Current Use Land. Farms have large flocks of these birds that seek winter harbor and feed off their crop residue and storage. Private stocking ponds, purchase and raise both rainbow and brown trout. As written this language would end Current Use as we know it.**

From personal experience, on my farm and woodlands that I have in Current Land Use, I have stocked my pond, raised gamebirds. and trained dogs. I hunt at NH's public preserves, and NHF&G stocking sites, purchasing State licenses as required. Under this amendment I would be no longer able to raise gamebirds on my land unless I gave up my Current Land Use benefit. Many others would feel the same financial strain, forcing them to abandon their passions. Public hunting areas on private land would be lost, a devastating blow to NHF&G pheasant hunting program. This amended language does not belong in our Current Use program nor does its intent. **Current Use program helps us to ensure that the New Hampshire we all love will be preserved for generations to come. I ask you to vote to ITL HB467.**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Mason', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rep. James Mason ME-02

DATE: March 1, 2021  
TO: NH House County and Municipal Government Committee  
FROM: Representative Rosemarie Rung, Merrimack (Hillsborough 21)  
SUBJECT: Oral Testimony in Support of HB467

Thank you Mr. Chairman and the members of the County and Municipal Government Committee. I come before you to speak in support of HB467.

As ones who love New Hampshire and all that makes our state special, you will join me in appreciating this bill. It reflects the intent of our state's current use statute to preserve the natural and traditional land use of the Granite State.

However, the NH Advantage fundamentally relies on assessing non-current use property to raise tax revenue to fund local services, including public education. We have been successful since current use passed into law in 1973 in balancing the lower revenues from land in current use with regular tax rates for other properties.

But, is it consistent with current use when land is used to introduce non-native, non-domesticated animals for private, paid recreational hunting? Is the legislative intent for wealthy, out of state hunters to stock private land – public use forbidden - with non-native species and pay handsomely to hunt them? Is it worth the risk of destroying the habitat of our native species? Is that the New Hampshire way? I don't think so.

I believe that the current use statute needs to clarify that its intent is to protect the natural and cultural heritage of New Hampshire. That is what this bill does and I respectfully ask that you recommend OTP. Thank you.

“It is hereby declared to be in the public interest to encourage reservation of open space, thus providing a healthful and attractive outdoor environment for work and recreation of the state's citizens, maintaining the character of the state's landscape, and conserving the land, water, forest, agricultural and wildlife resources.” NH Current Use Law RSA 79-A



## NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION, INC.

11 Mile Hill Road, Newtown, CT 06470-2359

203-426-1320 ext. 238 jmcguigan@nssf.org

### Jake McGuigan

Senior Director,  
Government Relations - State Affairs

March 1, 2021

Chair Tom Dolan  
Municipal and County Government Committee  
The New Hampshire General Court  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Position: Oppose

Re: House Bill 467– Relative to Current Use Tax Rate Eligibility

Dear Chair Dolan and Members of the Municipal and County Government Committee:

On behalf of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (“NSSF”), I write today to express our strong opposition for House Bill 467, which seeks to curtail certain types of legal hunting activities in New Hampshire via changes to the tax code.

As the trade association for America’s firearms, ammunition, hunting, and recreational shooting sports industry, NSSF seeks to promote, protect and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. We have a membership of more than 9,000 manufacturers, distributors, firearms retailers, shooting ranges, and sportsmen’s organizations. Our manufacturer members make the firearms used by law-abiding New Hampshire sportsmen and women, the U.S. military, and law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

This piece of legislation would quietly remove a current use tax credit/deduction if you “harbor” non-native, non-domesticated animals. This bill would have a negative financial impact on many of the hunting preserves and clubs throughout New Hampshire. At a time where we are finally seeing an increase in hunters this bill would try to slowly put an end to that while impacting legal small businesses in the state. Hunting, fishing and other forms of outdoor recreation have proven physical, psychological, and educational benefits for our nation’s young people. Despite these benefits, our country has experienced declining participation in hunting until the only recent increase and we need to make every effort to continue trying to recruit new hunters and protecting opportunities.

Hunting and associated industries represent the largest financial supporters of wildlife conservation throughout the United States, having contributed over \$10.3 billion to habitat conservation and wildlife management through Pittman Robertson excise tax payments since 1991. In addition to excise tax payments, hunting and fishing licenses constitute the second largest source of revenue for state fish and wildlife agencies. Excise tax contributions and license receipts will inevitably decrease with the passage of this bill.

It is for the reasons stated above that the National Shooting Sports Foundation opposed House Bill 467.

Sincerely,

Jake McGuigan  
Managing Director State Affairs





# New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

**HEADQUARTERS:** 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301-6500  
(603) 271-3421  
FAX (603) 271-1438

**www.WildNH.com**  
e-mail: [info@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:info@wildlife.nh.gov)  
TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

## **New Hampshire Fish and Game Department Testimony on HB 467, Relative to Current Use Tax Rate Eligibility. House Municipal and County Government Committee March 1, 2021**

We write to express concern about HB 467 as drafted, and to express the position of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department to oppose the bill as written. While members of the Commission have been briefed upon the bill, the full NH Fish and Game Commission has not met to develop a position on the bill.

We offer no comment on the current use program itself, which has been a very valuable tool in protecting the status of open land for many conservation purposes, including the preservation of the land for the management of wildlife and for access to hunting, fishing and trapping.

Instead, we express concern about the very vague language that is proposed to be added to the statute, "...*Nor shall "open space land" include any farm land or forest land used to harbor non-native, non-domesticated animal species.*" We have the following concerns:

1. We do not know the meaning of the term "harbor", which might mean anything from passively allowing a species to remain on a site all the way to actively fencing in an area, or otherwise placing the species in some form of captivity.
2. We do not know the meaning of "non-native, non-domesticated animal species". If one contrasts this idea with the definition of "wildlife" that is contained in RSA 207:1, XXXV:

"XXXV. Wildlife: Refers to all species of mammals, birds, fish, mollusks, crustaceans, amphibians, invertebrates, reptiles or their progeny or eggs which, whether raised in captivity or not, are normally found in a wild state.

We are concerned that all wildlife is "non-domesticated" by definition, and thus nearly every parcel of open space land in the state currently in the current use program could be affected. Since there is no definition of "non-native", and no point in time when a specific species could be determined to be native or non-native, we are concerned that nearly every parcel of open space farm or forest land in the state could be affected by this language, and potentially disqualified from the current use program.

3. There could be an unintended side effect of preventing the Fish and Game Department from operating a full season for pheasant or for wild turkey, both of which are very popular game birds among hunters in the state. Pheasant is stocked from birds that are farm raised, but then are released into the wild. As to the pheasant season, the Department stocks these birds at both privately owned locations and state owned locations. Over 65% of the locations are on privately owned lands and over 50% of the stocked birds are released on these lands, many of which would be affected by this bill, because pheasant as stocked could be found to be both "non-native and "non-domesticated". Rather than risk loss of current use status, we

### **REGION 1**

629B Main Street  
Lancaster, NH 03584-3612  
(603) 788-3164  
FAX (603) 788-4823  
email: [reg1@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:reg1@wildlife.nh.gov)

### **REGION 2**

PO Box 417  
New Hampton, NH 03256  
(603) 744-5470  
FAX (603) 744-6302  
email: [reg2@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:reg2@wildlife.nh.gov)

### **REGION 3**

225 Main Street  
Durham, NH 03824-4732  
(603) 868-1095  
FAX (603) 868-3305  
email: [reg3@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:reg3@wildlife.nh.gov)

### **REGION 4**

15 Ash Brook Court  
Keene, NH 03431  
(603) 352-9669  
FAX (603) 352-8798  
email: [reg4@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:reg4@wildlife.nh.gov)

are concerned that many of these stocking and hunting locations would be lost to the department and the sportsmen of the state.

As to the wild turkey season, turkey is a species that was once extirpated from the state. Thus, depending upon when the determination of species status is made under this program, this game bird could be found to be both “non-native and non-domesticated”. Over a period of years, the restoration efforts of the department and its partners have restored the population to the point that there is a spring and fall hunting season that impacts thousands of sportsmen, and turkey are found in all communities in our state. Many of the birds are hunted on private property with the permission of the owners, which permission might be revoked rather than lose current use taxation status. The loss of hunting opportunity would have serious repercussions for the management of the species. The loss of current use taxation status would be a severe impact upon the owners of open space farm and forest property in the state.

If a hunting season for pheasant is lost or curtailed, or a hunting season for wild turkey is lost or curtailed, there will be a fiscal impact to state revenues in the form of lost hunting license revenue to the Fish and Game fund. Thus, we respectfully request that this bill be found Inexpedient to Legislate, or in the alternative, that the bill receive a Fiscal Note so that the impact of public revenues may be known.

Sincerely,  
Paul G. Sanderson  
Legal Coordinator  
NH Fish and Game Department



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB<sup>SM</sup>

**Stacey Ober, J.D.**  
Legislative Analyst  
Community Outreach  
New England Region

March 1, 2021

The Honorable Tom Dolan, Chair  
New Hampshire House Committee on Municipal and County Government  
LOB Room 301, 33 North State Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**RE: American Kennel Club Opposes HB 467 Relative to Current Use Tax Rate Eligibility**

Dear Chair Dolan and Members of the House Committee on Municipal and County Government:

Founded in 1884, the American Kennel Club (AKC) is a recognized and trusted expert in canine health, breeding, and training. We represent over 5,000 dog clubs nationally, including 22 in New Hampshire, which represent thousands of dog owners. In 2019, AKC licensed and sanctioned 141 New Hampshire events, including field trials and other performance activities, with more than 24,000 dogs participating. Events generate significant economic benefits to local communities in addition to the millions of dollars AKC dog owners in New Hampshire spend annually on their dogs. For example, surveys demonstrate that exhibitors at AKC conformation dog shows spend an average of \$685 per show weekend.

HB 467 would remove the use tax deduction for “open space land” at locations that currently benefit from it and harbor non-native or non-domesticated animals. Facilities do harbor pheasant or partridge and allow the training of hunting dogs at these locations. Hunting is a vital part of New Hampshire’s heritage and economy and should be preserved and protected for the people. Removing this tax deduction would have a negative financial impact at a time when outdoor recreational activities are experiencing great interest due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ***AKC is opposed to HB 467 and respectfully asks the committee to vote the bill as inexpedient to legislate.***

Thank you for your consideration of this significant concern. I can be reached at (919) 816-3348 or [Stacey.Ober@akc.org](mailto:Stacey.Ober@akc.org).

Sincerely,

Stacey Ober, JD  
Legislative Analyst and Community Outreach Coordinator, New England  
AKC Government Relations

CC: The Honorable Ellen Read, Sponsor HB 467  
Angela Ferrari, Dog Owners of the Granite State (DOGS)



**To: House Municipal and County Government Committee**  
107 N. Main Street  
Legislative Office Building, Room 301  
Concord, NH 03301

**Re: HB 467 – An Act Relative to Current Use Tax Rate Eligibility.**

**Position: Oppose**

**Date: February 26, 2021**

---

Honorable Members of the House Municipal and County Government Committee:

My name is Joseph Mullin and I am the Assistant Manager, Northeastern States for the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF). I respectfully urge you to oppose House Bill 467 (HB 467) – legislation that poses to eliminate conservation tax incentives for New Hampshire's upland bird hunting facilities and sporting dog kennels. Doing so has the potential to hamper hunter recruitment efforts and would in turn result in a negative impact to the conservation funding stream the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department relies on to carry out their critical mission on behalf of New Hampshire's fish, wildlife, their habitats, and all citizens of the state.

For more than 80 years, sportsmen and women have been the primary funders of state-level conservation efforts in this state and are thus an important constituency that provides benefits for all New Hampshire residents. In 2020 alone, New Hampshire's sportsmen and women generated around \$18 million dollars for conservation through revenue derived from license sales and excise taxes on sporting-related goods in the unique "user-pays, public-benefits" structure known as the American System of Conservation Funding (ASCF). The funds collected through this program are the lifeblood of state fish and wildlife agencies (including the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department) – the primary managers of our nation's fish and wildlife resources. In this system, hunting preserves and sporting dog kennels offer unique benefits that further contribute to the management of our nation's fish, wildlife, and natural habitats.

For new sportsmen and women, bird hunting facilities offer a variety of benefits and present the ideal opportunity to experience time afield in a learning environment. On these properties, hunters will often spend time shooting clays at an on-site range, ensuring that they are prepared for the day's hunt, with each pull of the trigger (including those in pursuit of game) representing a contribution made to the ASCF. These facilities also offer an ideal venue for new sportsmen and women to learn alongside mentors in a controlled

---

**The Sportsman's Voice in the Nation's Capitols**

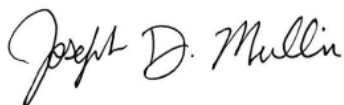
environment, as hunting positions are coordinated in order to allow for unimpeded opportunities. At a point in time where national participation in hunting has been on a general decline, preserves offer new sportsmen and women an opportune introduction to our nation's sporting traditions.

Additionally, sporting dog kennels provide a model setting for sportsmen and women to train their four-legged friends under true hunting conditions. Hunting dogs have an irreplaceable role alongside their handlers, and the training needed to prepare for each season is not something taken lightly. Many of the field exercises that these dogs experience include live-firing at birds, which further contributes to the ASCF. Project Upland – an award-winning hunting media brand – conducted a survey of its readership to determine the members' reasons for getting involved with hunting, and a resounding 75% answered "Yes" to the question "Would you say that dogs played a critical role in you becoming a hunter?"<sup>1</sup> As this study reflects, dogs can play an instrumental role in hunter recruitment, retention, and reactivation. With this in mind, most – if not all – hunting preserves and sporting dog kennels use non-native species, such as pheasant and Hungarian partridge. While these gamebirds have become iconic species for the upland hunting community, their existence in North America by virtue makes them non-native and non-domesticated.

Many hunting preserves and kennels receive incentives under the current use tax assessment by conserving the land, water, forest, agricultural and wildlife resources on their properties – something expressly encouraged in [RSA Title V, Chapter 79-A:1](#) as being "in the public interest." However, because these locations use non-native species in their operations, they would become ineligible to receive the "open space land" benefits under current use tax assessments should HB 467 pass. It's not unreasonable to surmise that without these benefits, some of these locations may look to commercialize or develop a portion of their lands to recoup a portion of the higher operational costs they would incur following the passage of this bill, thus completely defeating the purpose outlined within the current use tax law's declaration.

For these reasons, I urge the House Municipal and County Government Committee to oppose HB 467. Should you require any additional information on this, or any other sportsmen-related topic, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,



Joseph Mullin  
Assistant Manager, Northeastern States | Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
110 North Carolina Ave., SE | Washington, DC 20003  
[Jmullin@congressionalsportsmen.org](mailto:Jmullin@congressionalsportsmen.org) | 202-253-6883

---

<sup>1</sup> *Confirming Bird Dogs as a Silver Bullet of R3 in the Future of Hunting Recruitment*. Accessed on February 26, 2021. Available at: <https://projectupland.com/hunting-dogs/confirming-bird-dogs-as-a-silver-bullet-of-r3-2/>.

Bill as  
Introduced

HB 467 - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-0589

05/10

HOUSE BILL           **467**

AN ACT               relative to current use tax rate eligibility.

SPONSORS:          Rep. Read, Rock. 17; Rep. Rung, Hills. 21

COMMITTEE:        Municipal and County Government

---

ANALYSIS

This bill provides that land used to harbor non-native, non-domesticated animals shall not be eligible for current use assessment under RSA 79-A.

-----

Explanation:       Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One*

AN ACT                   relative to current use tax rate eligibility.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1           1 Current Use Taxation; Definition of Open Space Land; Land Used to Harbor Non-native, Non-  
2 domesticated Animal Species Excluded. Amend RSA 79-A:2, IX to read as follows:

3           IX. "Open space land" means any or all farm land, forest land, or unproductive land as  
4 defined by this section. However, "open space land" shall not include any property held by a city,  
5 town or district in another city or town for the purpose of a water supply or flood control, for which a  
6 payment in place of taxes is made in accordance with RSA 72:11. ***Nor shall "open space land"***  
7 ***include any farm land or forest land used to harbor non-native, non-domesticated animal***  
8 ***species.***

9           2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect April 1, 2022.