



## NH SENATE PRESS RELEASE

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### **Senator Fuller Clark Continues Work to Expand Reliable LCHIP Funding, Issues Concern About Half Measure**

**CONCORD** - Today, Senator Martha Fuller Clark (D-Portsmouth) expressed her opposition to SB 617, which was heard by the Senate Ways and Means Committee. The bill aims to expand funding for the land and community heritage investment program (LCHIP), however, its reliance on a voluntary surcharge will not produce consistent, reliable funding for the program. Senator Fuller Clark has introduced SB 493 that would provide sustainable increased funding; SB 493 mirrors SB 74 which was vetoed by Governor Sununu in 2019.

#### **After the hearing, Senator Fuller Clark issued the following statement:**

“We all believe in the importance of preserving New Hampshire’s history and natural beauty. Since 2002, the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) has successfully provided assistance to communities and non-profit organizations in their efforts to conserve and preserve our state’s most important natural, cultural, and historical resources. I applaud the intent of this legislation which is to expand the financial resources for this very popular and successful program.

Currently the request for support from LCHIP for many worthwhile projects continues to increase, as well as the cost to preserve land and rehabilitate historic buildings, and the current funding simply can not meet the demand. Adding volunteer dollars is a laudable recommendation, however, it is not a workable solution as there is no way to predict how much money will be available from month to month, year to year. To successfully run a program like LCHIP the amount of funds available needs to be predictable and consistent. Hopefully the Senate Ways and Means Committee recognizes the importance of this program and will work with the sponsors to identify an alternative source of funds.”

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