

Testimony Received via e-mail on February 24, 2016

To: Natural Resources Committee

Dear Committee Members;

As a lifelong Vermonter and landowner I was very upset reading proposed Bill H584.

I am not a logger, but I do own woodland. Some of it has been in my family for generations, and some of it we purchased and worked long and hard to pay for.

We cut firewood and logs each year to heat our homes and help pay our, ever more burdensome, property taxes. The notification and trip ticket requirements of H584 are an unnecessary nuisance to landowners wishing to harvest their forestry products.

The findings and policy sections of the Bill seem to indicate that harvesting of forest products is good for our State and is to be encouraged. Yet the notification and trip ticket requirements would certainly not do that.

I would suspect these requirements have a hidden agenda. The notification requirement would be a great first step for those who would like to see a permit required for anyone wishing to cut trees. The trip ticket requirement would give State government an inventory of all timber and firewood sales if they chose to consider a timber tax such as New Hampshire has. Please remember, New Hampshire has no property tax. In Vermont we have already paid the tax on our trees many, many times.

Like many Vermonters, our forest land is also prime development land. We don't have 401k's or retirement pensions. Selling some logs and firewood was a large part of our retirement plan. I love working in the woods and managing our forest with care and pride. But if State government wants to manage my woodland for me maybe we would be smarter to sell out to developers.

These provisions of H584 are of no benefit to me or any other landowners I have spoken to. I sincerely hope you folks will remove both the "notification" and the "trip ticket" provisions from H584 before voting it out of committee.

Thank You
LeRoy Turner