

Resolution Supporting the Right of Local Community Self-Government

Be it Resolved: We recognize that the people of New Hampshire towns, cities and counties, have the fundamental right of local community self-government, which includes the power to stop projects of corporations and other business entities which violate the civil, political and environmental rights of our communities.

Our right of local community self-government is premised on our New Hampshire Constitution, Part First, Bill of Rights, which provides in part that *all men have certain natural, essential and inherent rights...*(Article 2.);...*all government of right originates with the people [and] is founded in consent...*(Article 1.); *all power residing originally in, and being derived from, the people, all magistrates and officers of government are...at all times accountable to them* (Article 8.); *and government being instituted for the common benefit...and not for...private interest..., whenever the ends of government are perverted...the people may, and of right ought to reform the old, or establish a new government...*(Article 10.).

Without a constitutionally-recognized right of local community self-government, we are left at the mercy of our state government, and the interests of corporations and other business entities, intent on exploiting our communities.

Therefore, we call on the General Court [Legislature] of the State of New Hampshire to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot explicitly recognizing our right of local community self-government, including our right to pass and enforce protective local laws which are not subject to state preemption or corporate “rights,” which prohibit projects by corporations and other business entities that seek to violate our rights; **and**

We call on our State Senators, Representatives and Governor to support our right of local community self-government, and to endorse an amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution recognizing this right.

Within 30 days of its adoption, this resolution shall be transmitted by written notice from the municipality to the Governor and General Court [Legislature] of New Hampshire informing them of these instructions from their constituents.