



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

January 30, 2018

Representative Gene Chandler
Speaker, New Hampshire House of Representatives
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH

Dear Speaker Chandler,

Last week the Senate held public hearings on two pieces of legislation that would increase taxes on Granite Staters, SB410 a "Canoe Tax," as well as SB463 a new "Paint Tax." New Hampshire's citizens have a long and proud tradition of resisting unnecessary encroachment of government into their lives, and have stood strong against previous unnecessary tax increases. Revenue should only be raised to provide for the demonstrated needs of our citizens. The proposed Canoe and Paint taxes fall far short of this litmus test, and I would veto them should they reach my desk.

The "Canoe Tax" is designed to raise revenue for the sake of raising revenue. This bill would have the state impose a \$10 registration fee on Canoes and Kayaks. The Department of Safety, reports that this new tax would require \$90,000 in startup system programming and \$61,000 in annual operating costs to administer. Of the \$10 tax, \$3 would go to cover these costs, not only is this a large administrative overhead but the Department of Safety does not expect this would raise enough revenue and they would be required to dip into the Navigation Safety Fund. As I am sure you can see, this is robbing Peter to pay Paul.

The "Paint Tax" would force producers to establish an elaborate paint recycling program, the costs of which is indeterminable but would be directly passed on to consumers. While all are in agreement that paint must be recycled, there is no demonstrated deficiency with our current system. This is a bureaucratic scheme in search of a problem.

I hope that both SB410 and SB463 never reach my desk, but rest assured if they do, I will veto them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor