



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

February 1, 2021

Dear Members of the House Municipal and County Government Committee,

In 2019, I put together a taskforce of state officials, housing experts, and community stakeholders to make recommendations to improve New Hampshire's housing crisis. The taskforce developed recommendations that led to last year's HB 1629 and HB 1632. The House Municipal and County Government Committee worked hard to improve on those recommendations, fine-tuning the legislation and adding insights to ensure that our New Hampshire tradition of local control would be protected. Prior to the pandemic, these bills represented one of the best opportunities in years to advance New Hampshire's housing situation in a substantive, bipartisan way. House Bill 586 is the continuation of those two bills and this Committee's effort. House Bill 586 will:

- Expand access to quality training for our local planning board and zoning board members, without mandates.
- Protect property rights by ensuring a planning and zoning process that improves predictability and balance.
- Accelerate investment in workforce housing for those municipalities who choose to do so.

Many States choose the path of top-down mandates and burdensome regulations. That is not the New Hampshire way. House Bill 586 embraces our traditions of local control and individual property rights, empowering municipalities to help attract the workforce that makes our economy thrive. I ask you to pass House Bill 586 to keep New Hampshire's economy the envy of our neighboring states and the entire country. If we do nothing to address our State's housing issues, we will be telling our New Hampshire businesses and workers that we are not listening to their needs.

Thank you for your continued hard work for your constituents and for the State of New Hampshire. My office stands ready to provide assistance in any way that is helpful.

Sincerely,

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

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor