Scott R. Mason

806 US RTE 3 N. Stratford NH 03590 603-991-2674 scott@northwinds.farm

04/14/20

Dear Commissioner Stohl,

Thank you for considering my application for Executive Director of the New Hampshire Fish and Game.

Since I was 16 years old. I have held a NH hunting and fishing license. I have hunted deer, bear, grouse, woodcock, pheasant, rabbit, grey squirrel, woodchuck, and coyotes. I have enjoyed fishing for salmon, trout, cusk, flounder, bass, hornpout, and pickerel. I've gathered oysters, dug clams, ice fished, and done a little surf casting. I enjoy target shooting with both rifles and pistols and sporting clays. I've even dabbled a bit with fly tying. Over the years I have had the pleasure of living or working in nine out of our ten counties in New Hampshire.

In 1994 my wife and I became one of the first commercial farm families to buy a farm with an existing F&G conservation easement on it. Today we farm about 400 tillable acres on the banks of the Connecticut River. Our Jersey herd is currently ranked sixth in New England for Genomic Jersey Production Index.

During this time, I have served my local community as a selectman and as a member of the planning board. I have also served the New Hampshire Agricultural community through volunteer leadership in both the NH Farm Bureau and the American Farm Bureau. This is where I developed my skills in recruiting and organizing volunteers and learned the basic skills of government relations and communications.

Governor Sununu appointed me to serve on the University System Board of Trustees representing the Agricultural Industry, and in January appointed me to serve on the New Hampshire Milk Premium Fund Board representing dairy farmers. US Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue appointed me to serve on the NH USDA FSA state board. He has reappointed me twice.

I recently spent eight years working away from the farm as a communication consultant to Elevare Communications based in Concord. While there I worked in government relations, communications, community relations and legal. I worked directly with town governments, state leaders, landowners, and business owners.

I hope you agree that my love and understanding of New Hampshire's outdoors, fish and wildlife, combined with my work and volunteer experience with New Hampshire landowners advocacy, government relations, corporate communications, running public meetings, budgeting, and managing employees and volunteers makes me a good fit for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Executive Directors position.

I Look forward to speaking to you.

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Scott R. Mason

Scott R. Mason

806 US Rte. 3 Stratford NH 03590

Home Phone: 603-922-8377 Cell Phone: 603-991-2674

scott@northwinds.farm

Professional Skills:

Extensive experience collaborating with national, state, and local government leaders and other stakeholders to develop policies and strategies to further mutual goals and needs. Experienced in running public meetings both to inform the public and to make formal and informal public decisions. Proficient in budgeting, staff management, recruiting, and organizing volunteers. Long standing involvement in agriculture, industry, and community organizations, strong relationships with key constituencies across New Hampshire.

Work Experience:

Business Owner- Manager, Northwinds Farm, Stratford, NH (2018-present)

Resumed primary management responsibility for our family owned farm following conclusion of an eight-year consulting arrangement with Elevare Communications. See details below.

Community Relations/Government Relations Consultant, Elevare Communications (2011-2018)

Developed strategies for communications and outreach to public officials, communities, businesses, and landowners associated with Eversource transmission project. Presented project details to state and local government leaders. Provided guidance to government relations as to how local issues were impacting the legislative process. Provided extensive outreach to key stakeholders over a period of years in support of Eversource siting efforts. Communicated stakeholder concerns to senior management.

Business Owner- Manager, Northwinds Farm, Stratford, NH (1994-2011)

Our farm wholesales the milk from our Registered Jersey Cattle through Dairy Farmers of America Co-op. We also have a small beef herd, sheep flock, and vegetable operation. Our beef, lamb, and vegetables are marketed through local stores, restaurants, and directly to consumers at our farm. We sell dairy, beef, and sheep breeding stock through auctions and private treaty sales to other farmers.

Responsibilities include management of employees, consultants and contractors, forward purchasing of commodities, purchasing supplies, forage production, chemical applications and managing all aspects of herd genetics, health, and nutrition, and managing the testing and development of new techniques and inputs for livestock production and cropping. Developing a long-term capital needs plan and budget, annual budgets, seasonal and daily work schedules, maintenance plan, milk marketing plan including hedging, forward contracting, insurance and cash sales, a direct marketing plan for all other farm products, and nutrient management planning.

Crescent Farm Walpole, NH Dairy Herdsman (1988-1994)

Responsibilities included managing herd health, breeding, milking crews, and farm equipment operation.

US Department of Agriculture, FmHA Loan Officer (1985 to 1988)

Responsibilities included the origination, servicing, and collections of farm loans and singlefamily housing loans. Other responsibilities included performing construction inspections of farm, single family housing, multi-family housing, and municipal water and sewer projects. Conducting single family and farm real estate appraisals and chattel appraisals. Managing contractors and mediate disputes between clients and contractors. Consumer debt management consulting

Boards and Associations:

Current:

NH Dairy Premium Fund Board 2020 – 2022

University System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees 2017-2021

USDA FSA NH State Committee 2017-2021

American Farm Bureau Federal Milk Marketing Order Reform Work Group 2019-2020

Voting Delegate to the Genex Cooperative Annual meeting 2019-2020

Groveton Fish and Game Club Member

North Country Chamber of Commerce Member

Coos County Farm Bureau Member

NH Farm Bureau State Policy, Legislative, and Dairy committees.

Past:

Board of Directors Groveton Fish and Game Club

Member, Board of Supervisors Coos County Soil Conservation District

Member, State Technical Committee, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Member, Nash Stream Forest Citizens Advisory Committee, NH Department of Resources and Economic Development

Chairman of the Selectboard, Town of Stratford

Town Welfare Officer Town of Stratford

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Scott R. Mason

Past Boards and Associations Continued:

Planning Board Member, Town of Stratford

Chairman, Coos County Republican Committee

Vice President, NH Farm Bureau

Chairman, National Dairy Committee, American Farm Bureau Federation

Member, National Animal Health Committee, American Farm Bureau Federation

Chairman, National Young Farmer and Rancher Committee, American Farm Bureau Federation

Member, Board of Directors Granite State Dairy Promotion

Education:

BS Animal Science and Resource Economics, University of New Hampshire, 1988

References:

- Theodore Tichy Past Chairman NH F&G Commission
- Dr. Lisa K. Shapiro GCG Law
- Rebeca Brown
- Robert Johnson II
- Jasen Stock NH Timberland Owners
- Honorable Edith Tucker
- Luc Cote
- LT. Wayne Saunders Retired NHF&G Region 1
- Erik Taylor Elevare Communications
- Jamie Burnett
- Paul Grenier
- Dennis Ward NHFB President
- Honorable Bing Judd Past member of NHF&G Commissison

Commissioner Eric Stohl

NH Fish and Game Commission

P.O. Box 75

Colebrook, NH 03576

Eric,

I am writing this letter as a character reference in support of Scott Mason for the position of Director of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

I have known Scott and his Family for many years. His positive attitude and no nonsense business approach make him well suited for the position. During my 18 years on the Fish and Game Commission I had the opportunity to work with 5 different Directors. I also served on the search committee for a new Director twice. Out of the dozens of resumes I read and numerous interviews conducted, I would have loved to have had the opportunity to interview Scott. In my opinion, he is just what the Department needs to move forward and be successful. I believe it is his skills in dealing with people that highlights his ability to get things done. I have personally heard him testify in both the legislature and at contentious public meetings. His ability to get his point across while defusing a tense situation tells me that he could successfully deal with the many stakeholders and various groups that the Director would have to communicate with. His Family background with Fish and Game law enforcement, His passion for the resource, the positions he has held with the Farm Bureau and the University of New Hampshire and his ability to hold together and successfully run a business in very difficult times all show me he would be the right person for the job.

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Tichy

Milan, New Hampshire

Dear Commissioner Stohl,

I am confident in this letter of support for Scott Mason for the position of Executive Director of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. I have known Scott Mason for over 20 years. He is a business owner with a large budget and a large land owner who has been engaged with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department for as long as I can remember. He has the skill set to be the executive director for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. He is a high-quality communicator and has demonstrated this with his work with the New Hampshire Farm Bureau and various private as well as public entities. Scott Mason is a hunter and a fisherman and opens his land to trapping and understands conservation, biology, science, and the methods used to achieve goals that New Hampshire Fish and Game hopes to achieve while balancing the needs of stake holders. As the former District One Chief for New Hampshire Fish and Game in the most northern county of New Hampshire were Scott Mason lives and has operated a large farm for as long as I can remember, it is without hesitation and with confidence that I recommend Scott Mason for the position of Executive Director for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

Sincerely, Wayne T. Saunders

District One Lieutenant (retired)





April 14, 2020

Commissioner Eric Stohl Chair, NH Fish & Game Commission Search Committee PO Box 75 Colebrook, NH 03576

To the Search Committee:

I am writing in support of Scott Mason's application for director of the NH Fish & Game Dept.

I believe that Scott would bring administrative and political acumen to the job. More than most people in my experience, Scott is comfortable inhabiting very different human ecosystems: he is a successful business owner, navigates through local and state level politics as a select board member and UNH trustee, and has a keen sense of various communities. He works well with all types of people and is adept at bringing out various points of view and finding common ground. These are qualities which I am sure would be an asset in directing the Department.

Scott's business and political sense is likely what would be the most important asset for Fish & Game. As a dairy farmer, he has had to navigate complex (some would say arcane) rules, regulations, and pricing structures. He knows to the penny what is happening within his business, and at the same time holds a broad perspective on regional, national and international influences and trends.

When Scott worked for Eversource, he applied the same attention to detail, plus ability to see the large system, to the issues around power transmission. We were on opposite sides of that fight (Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust was an intervenor and a party to the Supreme Court case that upheld the SEC decision denying Northern Pass a state permit). Nonetheless, we were able to explore the issues and listen to each other with respect. And all during that time, despite our other differences, Scott was a valuable resource, generous in time and sharing of expertise, for my work conserving farmland and doing research on the agricultural economy in the North Country. He was also an important sounding board when I served in the Legislature (in the opposite party from Scott) and was on the Environment and Agriculture Committee.

I realize that Scott might be a nontraditional candidate for directing Fish & Game, but his ability to work across the aisle, strong ties to the Republican party, and good financial and political sense is crucial at this time for the Department. As an 🗸 angler, hunter, and conservation professional, I have a great interest in the future of the Department and wish you the best of luck with your search process. I hope that you will grant Scott an interview and give him serious consideration; I think he will bring some important new ideas to the table.

Sincerely,

Men At

Rebecca A. Brown Executive Director

> PO Box 191, Franconia, New Hampshire 03580 • 603-823-7777 • office@aconservationtrust.org www.aconservationtrust.org





New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation

295 Sheep Davis Rd, Concord, NH 03301



April 15, 2020

NH Fish and Game Commission Executive Director Search Committee C/o Commissioner Eric Stohl, Chairman P.O. Box 75 Colebrook, NH 03576

Dear Commissioner Stohl:

On behalf of the NH Farm Bureau (NHFB) and the NH Timberland Owners Association (NHTOA) we submit this letter of support for Scott Mason of North Stratford as the NH Fish and Game Department Executive Director.

We believe Scott has the necessary background, experience, and skills for the job in key areas as follows:

<u>Natural Resource Management</u> – We believe it is important for an individual in the Director's position to have run a natural resource based business.

Owning and managing a commercial dairy farm, he understands natural resource management. Having an understanding of the science and theory of natural resources management is good, but the Department has scientist and biologist who specialize in this and keep up to date on the science. Scott brings practical knowledge and experience to the equation and has demonstrated a deep respect for science and will look to and respect the Departments experts in their areas of expertise. Scott's management of his farm on the banks of the Connecticut River comes with its own unique set of challenges such as managing cropland subject to infrequent flooding, growing crops subject to significant impacts from wildlife, and raising livestock subject to natural predation that would be invaluable in the Director's work and outreach efforts in overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Department.

Private Landowner – We believe it is key for the Executive Director to be someone who appreciates the role private landowners play in the management and protection of the state's game and non-game resources, and the role private lands play in the state's outdoor tourism economy.

As a private landowner, whose land is open to hunting and trapping, Scott has first-hand knowledge and an appreciation for these management tools. Specifically, he has seen the outcomes of proper wildlife population management. Because his farm hosts snowmobile and OHRV trails that are part of the state's trail network he also understands and appreciates the landowner's role in this important recreation industry. He also understands the role Fish and Game law enforcement plays in this recreational industry. In addition, as the owner of the first commercial farm to have land subject to a conservation easement held by the Department, he has

demonstrated a commitment to land stewardship and knows the role private lands play in maintaining rare, threatened, and endangered species and habitats.

Human Resource Management – We view a significant part of this position as managing people and working with policymakers at the state and federal level. The Director's role is to set the tone for the staff, how they interact with the regulated community, how they interact with private landowners, and to work with policymakers in defending the Department's budget & addressing legislation, acts on Commission priorities, and oversees the Department's relationship with other state agencies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

We believe Scott is well-equipped and has demonstrated the skills do this part of the job well in representing the Department. As a small business owner he manages employees, vendors, and customers. He also manages the budget and cash-flow for a business in the incredibly competitive dairy industry. As an active participant on several boards and organization committees he actively participates in policy debates and testifies before legislative committees. Of particular note, he has good communication skills which include being direct while also being diplomatic. We also find him to be a particularly good listener. He has a good grasp of process and understands organizations work best when a chain of command is followed and the expertise and roles of all involved are respected.

Licensed Hunter – We believe the Executive Director must be a licensed hunter and/or trapper. We believe hunters and trappers are the best naturalist and being a hunter and/or trapper demonstrates the Director has knowledge and experiences concerning hunting and/or trapping etiquette, responsibility, and safety. It also provides the Director with an understanding of the concerns and issues important to licensed hunters and trappers of which the department regulates.

Scott is a hunter, a fisherman, and works with trappers on his land.

In closing, we believe it is important to point out that Scott has a good understanding of the people and diverse regions of the state. He was born and raised in Dunbarton, attended UNH and lived in Durham, and following college he lived and worked for the next five years on his wife Heidi's family farm in Walpole before purchasing his current farm in North Stratford – a region in which outdoor recreation is vital to the economy and the way of life. He has lived in or worked in nine of the state's ten counties.

The next Director will face numerous challenges, these include the Department's budget including licensing issues, and bringing diverse stakeholder groups together. We believe Scott is up to these challenges. He is not averse to thinking outside the box. An example of this is when he was a NH Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee leader in the early 1990s when he sought to beef up the awards program for young farmer achievement. He approached a local tractor dealer and together with Kubota Tractor Corporation they instituted an award in which the NH Young Farmer Achievement Award recipient each year receives the free use of a Kubota tractor for one year with an option to purchase the tractor at the end of the year at a very reasonable price. This program continues today.

Please do not hesitate to contact any one of us for any reason.

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Sincerely,

Denis Ward, President NH Farm Bureau Federation Office: (603) 224-1934 Direct: (603) 312-6877 denwar@roadrunner.com

Jasen Stock, Executive Director NH Timberland Owners Association Office: (603) 224-9699 Direct: (603) 674-8184 jstock@nhtoa.org

Robert ally " Zohnson "

Robert Johnson, II, Policy Director NH Farm Bureau Federation Office: (603) 224-1934 Direct: (603) 312-6877

New Hampshire Farm Bureau (NHFB) is a non-profit federation, established in 1916, of New Hampshire's 10 county Farm Bureau organizations which consist of nearly 2,000 NH farm families and over 1,000 supporting members. NHFB is dedicated to advocating for and educating the public about agriculture. NHFB is a general farm organization where the members establish policy and direction through a member driven policy development process.

Founded in 1911, **NHTOA** is a non-profit statewide coalition of landowners, forest industry professionals, government officials, and supporters who work together to promote better forest management, conserve our working forests, and ensure a strong forest products industry.

Rep. Edith M. Tucker 13 Cold Brook Road Randolph, NH 03593

April 13, 2020

F & G Commr. Eric Stohl Chair, Search Committee P.O. Box 75; Colebrook, NH 03576

Members of the Fish & Game Commission:

I'm pleased to write in support of Scott Mason's application for the position of Executive Director of the state Fish and Game Department.

I've known Scott for 25 years. I met him when I was the natural resources reporter at the weekly "Coös County Democrat" in Lancaster, then owned by John Harrigan. My Coös "beat" included dairy farms and agriculture as well as wildlife, fishing, hunting, hiking and motorized sports plus search and rescue, forests, logging, conservation easements, state forests and parks and federal land ownerships.

Scott was a Stratford selectman for 5 years, active in Coös County and N.H. Farm Bureau and local party politics. Over time I grew to admire his grasp of the ins and outs of the many intertwined — and sometimes conflicting — outdoor issues. Off-farm, from 2011 until 2019, he was a community & municipal relations consultant to the then-proposed Northern Pass Transmission project.

In 2017, Gov. Chris Sununu appointed Scott, a UNH graduate who earned his B.S. in 1988, to a 4-year term on the USNH Board of Trustees. Thanks to Scott's on-the-ground knowledge, UNH President James Dean has spent some time in Coös, meeting local leaders and becoming familiar with its opportunities and challenges.

Scott Mason has the kind of well-honed communication skills that are called for when building and maintaining mutually respectful relationships with a variety of organizations: sporting clubs, wildlife organizations, governmental and non-governmental agencies, the Legislature, media and members of the public, ranging from traditional hunters and trappers to relative newcomers to the state.

Sincerely,

Edita M. Tucker

Edith M. Tucker

LISA K. SHAPIRO, Ph.D. 569 Shaker Rd. Canterbury, NH 03224 (603) 496-6819, lisakshapiro@gmail.com

Commissioner Eric Stohl Chair, Search Committee PO Box 75 Colebrook, NH 03576

Dear Commissioner Stohl:

I am writing to you to offer a reference for Mr. Scott Mason in his application for the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Fish and Game. I am currently the Chief Economist at Gallagher, Callahan & Gartrell, P.C., in Concord, New Hampshire.

I worked with Scott for about 10 years and found in him strong skills that I believe would serve the state well.

My work primarily involved the analysis and presentation of the fiscal impacts of a controversial energy project.

As a community and government relations manager, Scott was aware that the expert analysis I developed was an important part of the information he needed to communicate to stakeholders.

I found Scott to be a pleasure to work with – he asked good and critical questions and made common sense suggestions for how to communicate complicated and controversial information to stakeholders.

He understood the material and was able to present it himself. Scott worked well on his own, and also in small and large groups.

He is a good listener, is innovative, organized, and was an active leader in helping to shape strategy.

He is also a very effective team player, conveying important if unwelcome information, but also always offering a solution to the problem and doing so in a way that was consensus-building whenever possible.

Scott spoke with many different people throughout our work together, and in my opinion and observations, engendered confidence and trust.

I found that he was very good at communication and accountability, building and maintaining diverse relationships, and respectful of science, the facts, and human nature.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input.

If you have questions or would like to discuss this further, please call or email.

Sincerely,

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Lisa K. Shapiro, Ph.D.

City of Berlin, NH

Office of the Mayor



Mr. Eric Stohl NH Fish & Game Commission Chairman, Search Committee PO Box 75 Colebrook, NH 03576

April 13, 2020

Dear Commissioner Stohl,

I hope this letter finds you well, also trust that your general well being is positive. I understand Mr. Scott Mason is applying to be the next NH Fish & Game Commission Executive Director. I applaud his willingness to serve in such an important capacity in our state. Mr. Mason's business acumen and his extensive knowledge of animal husbandry would have a profoundly positive effect on your agency.

It has been well documented that the NH Fish & Game Commission is under differing pressures, both financial and political, from even a decade ago. Traditional participation and revenue from license purchases from sportsmen are either flat or less while the mission of your agency has grown exponentially. Your new Executive Director must be able to serve many masters all the while promoting harmony and communication among the many constituent groups who don't always share common interests. I believe Scott Mason has those qualites.

I have known Mr. Mason and his family for over twenty years. He's of impeccably high moral character, something that is the most important of qualities in any public servant. He will have interactions will agency professionals who are the true face of Fish & Game. I find Scott to be a "straight shooter" and will quickly earn the respect of his subordinates as well as the commssion itself.

You would serve the State of New Hampshire well by giving Scott Mason very serious consideration of the position of NH Fish & Game Executive Director.

Paul Grenier, Berlin

Paul Grenier, Mayor City Hall, 168 Main Street Berlin, NH 03570 Tel: 603-752-2340 Fax: 603-752-1654 www.berlinnh.goy April 13, 2020

Commissioner Eric Stohl Chairman, Search Committee NH Fish and Game Commission PO Box 75 Colebrook, NH 03576

Dear Commissioner Stohl,

Please accept this letter as a full endorsement of Mr. Scott Mason's application to be Executive Director of the New Hampshire Fish and Game. Scott is highly qualified, and a person of impeccable character and judgment. I recommend him to your search committee without reservation.

I have known Scott Mason since 2002. Scott is extremely knowledgeable and accomplished in his field, and he is well regarded for his leadership and public service contributions to his state and community. Scott's long professional history in agriculture, management, and business, as well as his participation in many aspects of civic life make him a compelling candidate to be Executive Director. His strong communication skills and ability to build diverse coalitions of support around complex issues have made Scott a sought-after individual for matters involving government, public policy, land use, and more.

Since 2017, I have had the pleasure of serving with Scott on the University System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees. In just a few years, Scott has become a prominent member of the board, and his contributions have been substantial and noteworthy. Since his appointment by Governor Sununu to serve as a trustee, Scott has engaged heavily on issues of governance, financial affairs, budgeting, and planning. He is diplomatic, inclusive, and eager to donate time, energy, and ideas. He is a smart, strategic thinker and a steady presence on the board, and Scott plays a uniquely important role in representing New Hampshire's North Country for the university system. Scott has built durable relationships with all of the system's campuses, and the USNH leadership routinely seeks him out for his opinions.

Scott's reputation as a manager is stellar. He is an engaging leader who demonstrates a genuine interest in people, and his thoughtful demeanor creates an environment where colleagues feel comfortable offering ideas and asking questions. He is friendly, honest, and fair, and is always well prepared – thus a reliable leader by example.

Scott has worked with a vast array of organizations at the local, state and federal level, and he maintains close professional relationships in agriculture, natural resources, education, and business, as well as with our state legislature and executive branch.

I am confident that the Fish and Game Commission will find Scott Mason to be of the highest integrity, and his experience and background to be a strong match for the position of Executive Director. I urge you to consider him.

Sincerely,

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Jamie Burnett

PO Box 97 Concord, NH 03302 (603) 686-3909 JamieBurnettNH@gmail.com

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April 15, 2020

Eric Stohl Commissioner, NH Fish and Game Department 11 Hazen Drive Concord, NH 03301

Dear Commissioner Stohl,

I am pleased to provide a recommendation for Scott Mason for the position of executive director of NH Fish and Game Department. I had the privilege of working with Scott for eight years (2010-2018), and found Scott to be a tremendous professional asset to my consulting company on all of the issues and projects we worked on together.

One of the most impressive skills Scott has is his ability to work with all people regardless of background, education or position on a particular issue. Throughout our time working together, it was not uncommon for Scott to begin a day working constructively with an angry landowner and end the day providing strategic business advice to Fortune 500 corporate executives. This is truly a unique ability that is grounded in his intuitive knowledge, love of people and community, his ability to make all individuals feel understood and valued, and his drive to be a problem solver.

In addition, Scott brings a number of professional skills that make him uniquely qualified for this position. During our time together, he was actively involved in government relations working at all levels of New Hampshire government, including municipalities, state agencies, and the Legislature. He worked extensively with corporate communications professionals helping develop and deliver critical messaging, as well as work constructively with lawyers of varying practices, such as real estate, corporate and litigators, to help translate their work to lay people.

Scott spent considerable time working in communities helping educate citizens and landowners about complex, technical issues. Many times, this involved hosting and managing meetings with adverse parties. He not only dealt with these situations with great professionalism, but many times turned into these difficult situations into constructive, problem solving meetings.

Finally, Scott brings a love for his state and his community, a passion for important traditions, such as responsible hunting and fishing, and a great interest in animals, both domestic and wild.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this recommendation for Scott. He is a great asset to our state, and I believe he would be a great leader for NH Fish and Game. Please feel free to reach out to me if you would like additional information.

Sincerely, **Erik Taylor**

Erik Taylor President