

May 15, 2025

The Honorable Maggie Goodlander
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515



NEW HAMPSHIRE LAND TRUST COALITION

Dear Congresswoman Goodlander:

The New Hampshire Land Trust Coalition thanks you for your support and sponsorship of the Forest Conservation Easement Program (FCEP) Act. As you know, the purpose of the FCEP is to keep forests as forests through the use of conservation easements that purchase development rights from willing private and tribal landowners to prevent conversion to non-forest uses.

The FCEP has several important goals:

- Prioritize keeping forests as forests by highlighting the multitude of environmental, economic, and societal benefits forests provide;
- Significantly improve and enhance the ability of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to effectively conserve working forests at scale through conservation easements;
- Help landowners restore, enhance, and protect habitat for at-risk species while increasing carbon sequestration; and
- Provide landowners with two proven options for placing voluntary conservation easements on their land, with one held by the federal government and one held by eligible entities and land trusts.

New Hampshire's forests have long provided critical benefits, including clean drinking water, improving air quality, habitat for plants and animals, and renewable wood products. Because of these important benefits, keeping forests as forests is an urgent priority to help maintain the quality of life in our state. Once it is established, the Forest Conservation Easement Program will help the land trust community conserve more forests more quickly.

Thank you again for your leadership on this important issue. Please let us know how we can be of further help to you.

Sincerely,

Anne McBride
Board Chair, New Hampshire Land Trust Coalition