

Friends of Mount Sunapee

Organizational Position Overview

July 10, 2018

- 1. Look to the Law:** Any rewriting or reauthorizing of the leasing of Mount Sunapee State Park must comply with state law (RSA 12-A:29-a Lease Agreement; Terms, effective July 1, 2017). The proposed lease transfer provides the state with a golden opportunity to execute the **Lease Oversight and Administration Commission** provision of the lease enabling legislation, which would bring them into compliance with that section of the statute: **RSA 12-A:29-a, V.(b)** "The establishment of a prototype commission to oversee and administer the lease."
- 2. Insist on accountability and increase public confidence:** Obtain an independent financial and operational audit for last three years of the lessees of the ski area (leaseholder and operational lessee).
- 3. Secure state authority:** Amend the lease to include a "change of control provision" and to guarantee State review and consent (by Governor and Executive Council) of contracts pertaining to the state-owned ski area including assignments that encumber state assets.
- 4. Celebrate New Hampshire's natural heritage and biodiversity:** Create a designated "Natural Area" to permanently protect the Exemplary Natural Community Systems on Mount Sunapee's public lands.
- 5. Protect assets and conserve the land:** Friends of Mount Sunapee supports the protection of Mount Sunapee's highlands and western slopes from resort/real estate build out. The Friends of Mount Sunapee opposes the West Bowl expansion for environmental and public policy reasons. The documents (lease amendment and letter of conditions) governing the West Bowl Expansion are legally insufficient for a transaction of this significance, according to a legal analysis of the documents. Additionally, the project would violate the New Hampshire Native Plant Protection Act.
- 6. Recognize our state park:** Restore the wording "State Park" and phrasing that conveys public ownership of the state-owned ski area in signage, advertising, printed materials, website and social media postings, and other media promotions, etc., as required by Land and Water Conservation Fund guidelines.