NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE LEGISLATURE

HCR 23 - VERSION ADOPTED BY BOTH BODIES

2001 SESSION

01-2279

04/01

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 23

A RESOLUTION urging Congress to abolish the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program on public lands including the White Mountain National Forest.


COMMITTEE: State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs

ANALYSIS

This house concurrent resolution urges the Congress to abolish the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program and permit the citizens of New Hampshire to enjoy national forests without payment of a fee.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand One

A RESOLUTION urging Congress to abolish the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program on public lands including the White Mountain National Forest.

Whereas, in 1996 Congress passed the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 1996 that included a rider creating the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program; and

Whereas, the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program requires citizens of New Hampshire to pay to park in the White Mountain National Forest; and

Whereas, citizens of New Hampshire already pay federal income taxes that should adequately fund the operation and maintenance of national forests; and
Whereas, the federal government has failed in its commitment to New Hampshire citizens to fully fund payments in lieu of taxes for acquired federal lands; and

Whereas, the fee constitutes a regressive tax that bears no relation to the actual costs of recreation including hiking, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, wildlife observation, or picknicking; and

Whereas, the parking fees deny limited-income citizens access to public lands and inhibit volunteerism and stewardship of public lands; and

Whereas, the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program has undermined the longstanding goodwill between the White Mountain National Forest and New Hampshire citizens and communities; and

Whereas, the traditional support of New Hampshire citizens for activities such as trail maintenance and fire safety have been compromised; and

Whereas, fees are now required to gain access to areas that are unimproved and undeveloped; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

That the United States Congress is respectfully urged to abolish the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program and permit citizens of New Hampshire to enjoy the national forests without payment of a fee; and

That a copy of this resolution shall be sent by the house clerk to the President of the United States, the Senate Majority Leader, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each member of the New Hampshire congressional delegation.