



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

March 9, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

It was a pleasure meeting you at the White House last week during the National Governor's Association Meeting. This letter is to follow up our discussion on issues related to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program, particularly the MS4 permit for municipal storm water discharge that I believe will prove itself burdensome on many of New Hampshire's cities and towns.

On January 19, 2017, the EPA issued their updated MS4 permit for New Hampshire. The reissued permit is significantly more stringent and wide ranging than the previous one; this new permit is over 250 pages while the prior was 30 pages. The 44 New Hampshire municipalities mandated to obtain this permit face significant financial consequences. Just one example is in the City of Rochester, who is looking at compliance costs in the realm of \$25 million.

New Hampshire has long been proud and protective of our precious natural resources, including our many lakes, rivers, and bays. It is not simply federally mandated regulation that motivates our efforts in environmental preservation; our lands and waters are a fundamental part of what makes New Hampshire great and thus we prioritize their protection. Further, as a former environmental engineer, I know firsthand how important clean water is for our environment and for our public health. Even if these federal mandates disappeared tomorrow, New Hampshire would not cease to keep our waters clean.

Some regulations are understandable and reasonable. We rarely place as much trust in our government as when we turn on the tap expecting clean water. That being said, additional mandates contained within the new MS4 permit will prove themselves overly burdensome and enormously expensive for many of New Hampshire's communities. The costs to our

municipalities, our businesses, and our property owners could hold back our local economy and work to delay much of the progress we hope to achieve.

At your earliest convenience, I invite you to join me in New Hampshire for a discussion with local and state leaders who would be impacted by this new permit. I know that by listening to those on the frontlines, we can illustrate our desire to balance sensible regulation with local freedoms and responsibility.

Sincerely yours,



Christopher T. Sununu
Governor