

2015-2016 Legislative Requests for Dover Delegation

As requested by the City of Dover Mayor and City Council

December 3, 2014

In accordance with their endorsement of the attached legislative policy priorities, the Dover Mayor and Council respectfully request that our Dover Legislative Delegation initiate and/or add their support to any legislation or State agency efforts that advance the attached policy positions during the 2015-2016 legislative sessions. Please take note of the following additional information relating to the City of Dover Mayor and City Council's endorsement of specific items included in the attached 2015-2016 Legislative Policy Positions:

1. Legislative Principles (page 4, items 1, 2, and 6) – particular attention must be given to any further attempts to downshift costs onto local property taxpayers whether in the form of unfunded mandates such as required water quality improvement projects, suspension or reductions to state aid such as education building aid, or redirection of revenue streams from municipalities to other state funding commitments such as revenue sharing, highway funding or meals and rooms distributions.
2. General Administration and Governance (page 6, item 17) – ensure that the existing “level playing field” in public sector labor negotiations is not disrupted by opposing any effort to impose mandatory ever green clauses, binding arbitration or the right to strike. Also oppose any initiative that seeks to mandate the provision of certain benefits including enhancement to NHRS benefits that increase employer costs.
3. Finance and Revenue (page 8, item 1) – provide needed support for the Department of Revenue Administration to set tax rate by no later than Nov 1st of each year. The delay in tax rate setting this year has the potential to delay payment of the County tax and as a result may incur an additional late interest payment.
4. Infrastructure, Development and Land Use (page 11, items 1 and 3) – support restoration of full funding for municipal wastewater and drinking water compliance projects and encourage regional cooperation by providing financial support and other resources to address watershed water quality projects.
5. Finance and Revenue (page 10, item 18) – clarify the definition of charitable as it pertains to property tax exemptions to ensure that all entities that rely upon local services including hospitals, private schools, social organizations and ancillary facilities affiliated with religious organizations, are paying a fair share of the burden.
6. Other (page 5, items 1, 5 and 8) – these items were specifically excluded and therefore not supported by the vote of the Dover Mayor and Council endorsing the attached 2015-2016 Legislative Policy Positions

In addition to the attached, please consider supporting initiatives that will also address these specific Dover needs:

- Restore school building aid and provide financial support for construction of the High School
- Increase Education Adequacy Grant for Dover given inequity in the existing formula
- Provide resources for responsible science in regulatory decision-making relating to Great Bay
- Restore ability of fire wardens to limit burning permits to avoid impacting neighboring property owners
- Provide resources for development of a state-wide public welfare application and benefit tracking application
- Clarify land-use vesting rights and grandfathered use requirements
- Establish clearer definitions for “agri-tourism” including application of local land use regulations
- Provide financial support for existing commuter rail in the state of NH (including reimbursement for expenses incurred at a municipal level) prior to funding new rail initiatives