

(Sample letter sent to someone whom I didn't know, didn't have any background about, nor had anyone else who knew; SPNHF willing to buy his land or CE)

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am writing to introduce myself and the organization I work for, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. I also want to ask if I could meet with you to talk about my organization's interests in Green Mountain, in Effingham, where I understand you own a x-acre tract previously held by XXXX. The Society's interest in the area stems from our receipt of an extraordinary 1,035-acre gift to us in 1997, on the north side of the mountain, the High Watch Preserve. Since then, we have been promoting land conservation options, associated tax benefits, and related opportunities among other key landowners on the mountain.

Allow me to give you some background about our organization. The Society is a non-profit, membership supported organization with a mission of conserving land and other natural resources. It accomplishes this through the creation of permanent conservation areas and the promotion of responsible use of renewable natural resources, especially forests. In addition to land protection, the organization has other major programs in forestry, research, education, and policy. Founded in 1901, the Society is the state's oldest and largest land conservation organization. To date, we hold 132 permanent reservations, which we manage for multiple uses, including forest management, habitat protection, scenic value, and public recreation and/or education. We also hold over 500 conservation easements and other deed restrictions, where landowners have removed the development rights from their land while retaining ownership and continued uses for forestry, agriculture, and outdoor recreation. Using these different approaches, we protect a total of about 120,000 acres across New Hampshire. Although many of our acquisitions come to us as gifts, we are occasionally able to purchase land and conservation easements.

To provide more background about the Society and our work, I have enclosed written materials describing our organization, some basic land conservation options, and how we manage the lands we own. I will give you a call in a few days to follow up on this letter, and to ask if we might meet.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Howe
Director of Land Conservation

Encl.