

Resolution Supporting the Right to Local Community Self-Government

WHEREAS, we the people of the Town of Newmarket recognize that the people of New Hampshire have the inherent and natural right to local community self-government.

WHEREAS, the right to local community self-government includes three component rights: first, the right to a system of government within the local community that is controlled by a majority of its citizens; second, the right to a system of government within the local community that secures and protects the civil and political rights of every person in the community; third, the right to alter or abolish the system of local government if it infringes those component rights.

WHEREAS, the right to local community self-government includes the people's authority to use prohibitions and other means to elevate the rights of people, their communities, and natural environments free from ceiling preemption and from competing rights, powers, or duties of corporations and other business entities.

WHEREAS, freedom from ceiling preemption means that local laws enacted based on the right to local community self-government may strengthen and expand but shall not weaken or constrict existing rights and protections for people, or their communities, or natural environments, as those already recognized rights and protections are secured by other local, state, federal, or international laws.

WHEREAS, our right to local community self-government is premised on our New Hampshire Constitution, Part First, Bill of Rights, which provides in part that *all men have certain natural, essential and inherent rights...*(Article 2.);...*all government of right originates with the people [and] is founded in consent...*(Article 1.); *all power residing originally in, and being derived from, the people, all magistrates and officers of government are...at all times accountable to them* (Article 8.); and *government being instituted for the common benefit...and not for...private interest..., whenever the ends of government are perverted...the people may, and of right ought to reform the old, or establish a new government...*(Article 10.).

WHEREAS, without a constitutionally-secured right to local community self-government, the people of New Hampshire are unable to secure human rights and ecosystem rights beyond the constraints of ceiling preemption, leaving people and ecosystems at the mercy of corporations and other business entities intent on exploiting our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, the Town of Newmarket calls on the General Court [Legislature] of the State of New Hampshire to place a state constitutional amendment on the biennial ballot to expressly secure the people's inherent and natural right to local community self-government, free from governmental restriction, ceiling preemption, and nullification by corporate "rights"; **and**

We call on our State Senators, Representatives and Governor to support our right to local community self-government, and to endorse an amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution securing this right; **and**

Within 30 days of its adoption, this resolution shall be transmitted by written notice from the municipality to the Governor and General Court [Legislature] of New Hampshire informing them of these instructions from their constituents.