



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MARGARET WOOD HASSAN  
Governor

January 20, 2016

Dear Friends:

I regret that I am not able to be with you this evening, but I would like to welcome you all to the Watershed Plan Kick-Off and join you in celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1991 Plan that has served as an important management tool over the past quarter-century.

New Hampshire's natural resources are critical to our state's high quality of life, helping to attract tourists from around the world, enhancing our exciting outdoor recreational activities and boosting our economy. An updated watershed plan that aligns with the current conditions of the Squam Watershed is critical to protecting those natural resources, ensuring public safety, improving our wetlands habitat and promoting agricultural and recreational endeavors. It is clear that conservation strengthens our state, and I commend all of you here tonight for working together to preserve a healthy community and watershed for generations to come.

Since 1904, the Squam Lakes Association has been a leader in conservation in the Granite State and has fulfilled its mission to conserve and protect the Squam Watershed by collaborating with the greater Squam community, local and state governments, conservation partners, universities and local businesses. Your work embodies the "all-hands-on-deck" spirit of New Hampshire, where we roll up our sleeves, pitch in and work together to improve our communities.

Once again, I want to thank the Squam Lakes Association, the Center for the Environment at Plymouth State University, and all of the other key stakeholders here tonight for your hard work and dedication to conservation efforts and the Squam Lakes Watershed Plan. I look forward to continuing to work together to protect the natural resources that make New Hampshire a special place to live, work, raise a family and visit.

With every good wish,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maggie Hassan".

Margaret Wood Hassan  
Governor