



**New England
Forestry Foundation**

*Private Forests for the Public Good
Conserving New England's forests since 1944*

Dear Wilton NH Zoning Board of Adjustment

June 12, 2006

The New England Forestry Foundation is a non-profit forest conservation organization. We support working forests and believe that actively managed forests provide the public with a very wide range of benefits.

We advocate public policy based on sound information. Our function is to provide information and demonstrate sustainable forest management. Forests and nature function on long-term timetables and land use policies should take the same long-term view.

Landowner rights are very important and owners should be able to derive a reasonable economic return from their assets. Town zoning and use regulation strive to balance the social needs of the town with the needs of the landowner.

We trust the town decision makers to weigh all the various forces and make the decision that is in the best interests of the whole population of Wilton. Massachusetts style development pressure is bearing down on the town. Green space, clean water and functioning forests will become steadily more rare and important in maintaining the character of the town.

Wilton has gone through the difficult work of zoning and has already established zones and permitted uses. We support that zoning as it now stands.

Sincerely

Sidney E. Balch
Director of Forest Stewardship