

DEAR STATE SENATORS:

Keep *the* University System of New Hampshire Strong!

We rely on the University System of New Hampshire (USNH) for its outstanding graduates who work for our companies, its innovative research and technology, and its business partnerships—all of which make NH's economy one of the strongest in the nation. Arguably the single strongest asset of our economy is a highly skilled and motivated workforce, which includes many USNH graduates.

In fact, USNH and businesses are working more closely than ever to help us solve the state's fiscal challenges.

The USNH institutions provide an exceptional educational experience with great efficiency and effectiveness, even as New Hampshire ranks last in per capita support for higher education.

The House's plan to cut USNH funding threatens to disrupt this important state asset.

Consider the facts:

- USNH is an anchor and a stabilizing force in the NH economy—contributing nearly \$2 billion a year in economic activity, from a \$100 million a year investment from the state. That is a fantastic return on investment.
- USNH leaders are working hard to adopt business-inspired models to transform the way they operate, and to increase public-private collaborations.
- The state House of Representatives has approved a 45 percent cut to the USNH appropriation. This would bring state funding back to 1992 levels. Such a steep cut in one year will have a negative impact in the short- and long-term for the state's economy. And it would threaten innovative programs that are just taking hold.

We urge the state Senate to keep USNH strong and support a USNH budget that will protect and grow the state's economy.

ABTech, Inc.

Alex Ray and Moe Lafrenier,
Common Man Family

BAE Systems

Bedford Ambulatory Surgical

Bill Norton, Norton Asset
Management

C. Thomas Brown, Chairman
and CEO, New Hampshire
Distributors, Inc.

C. Williams Architects

C&S Wholesale Grocers, Inc.

Carden N. Welsh, Chief
Administrative Officer, Senior
Vice President, and Director

Centrix Bank

Church & Main, Inc.

Cole Gardens

Community Guarantee Savings
Bank

D. S. Cole Growers

Dyn, Inc.

Edward F. Mullen and Assoc.

Exeter Hospital

Frank Wells

Hampshire Hospitality

Holdings

Jaye Gibson

Joe Keefe, President and CEO

John H. Morison III, Chairman,
Hitchiner Mfg. Co., Inc.

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Joseph A. Bellavance,
Chairman, Bellavance
Beverage Co., Inc.

L-Squared Integration, LLC

Lamprey Brothers

Larry and Dawn Haynes

Mike and Jeff Foy and Foy
Insurance Group, Inc.

Northland Forest Products

Ocean Properties

Patrick Duffy

PixelMEDIA

Pleasant View Gardens
and the Huntington Family

RMC Research

Speare Memorial Hospital

Stonyfield Farm

Sullivan Construction, Inc.

Susan Scannell, Helpware

Tidland Corporation

(A Maxcess International
Company)

Will Manzer, CEO, and Bob
Mayerson, President, COO
and CFO, Eastern Mountain
Sports