

OPINION

Louise Andrus' View from Concord, April 2022

Louise Andrus, State Representative

In just a few weeks we can plant our main gardens. Very exciting until then to be working outside.

In the April *Beacon*, Mary Ann Broshek wrote an opinion regarding the need for voters to pay attention to what is happening with bills, etc. in the state, and I totally agree with her. The voters in New Hampshire need to pay attention and become more involved with the bills that are going through the Legislature. We need and want your input and involvement. This is your state!

On another note in Mary Ann Broshek's article, my name was mentioned in regards to the New Hampshire Liberty Alliance which reviews bills and then gives a rating of either "pro- or anti-liberty" to each legislative member depending on their vote. My rating was 100%, and I am proud of it.

I am a freedom lovin' and liberty lovin' individual. My candidacy in 2020 for House member was based on my being a New Hampshire native and conservative; pro-life, pro-Second Amendment, pro-gun, pro-school choice, pro-limited government, pro-small business, and support law enforcement.

These are the reasons the voters in Andover, Danbury, and Salisbury elected me to the House seat. I have not changed my position on who I am and will never change what I stand for. I firmly believe in our state and "Live Free or Die."

Ken Wells had an opinion article in the *Beacon* regarding a lack of knowledge about teachers leads to misinformation. In the article, Mr. Wells stated that he taught in residential high schools for 37 years, but he forgot to add to the article that his tenure was in private schools like St. Mark's in Southborough, Massachusetts and Tilton School in Tilton, New Hampshire.

In my opinion, there is no way a suitable comparison can be made between what resources and environment are available to teachers in a private school and what is available to teachers in public schools. In other words, in my opinion there is no way he could know what occurs in public schools.

Parents are not against public schools, and I stand with the parents that they are the decision makers for their child and not the school.

Parents are against some of the content that may be taught in our public schools. What do I mean: Previously in AE/MS there was a book, Honor Girl,

which was taken out of the school.

In some schools there is a dispute and debate regarding a company called AMAZE, and the content of its videos that might be tapped as a teacher resource. I have learned that this is part of a comprehensive sex education program in many schools.

I watched two of the videos – "Porn is Not Sex Ed" and "What are Pronouns?" The content of both videos is in my opinion questionable, and I hope our schools are not using these materials. Parents need to be aware of what curriculum is in use for their child.

Busy in Concord

We have been very busy with House sessions and committee meetings. One bill in particular I spoke against in a House session was amendment 2022-1173h to HB 1661. The bill was "Relative to regional career technical education agreements and relative to an appropriation for constructing a legislative parking garage." The amendment, which was the legislative parking lot, was not germane to the education bill. My speech was:

"I am not against a legislative parking garage appropriation next year, but I am against amendment 2022-1173h appropriating \$35 million this year.

"As for the proposal for a new parking garage, for me there are many unanswered questions. 1. The current suggested location at 33 Capitol Street – Are there viable alternatives? 2. Do we really want to vote to destroy the

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Help Minimize Wildfire Risk in Dry Forests

Woods are driest and most vulnerable in spring

Chief Steven Sherman
NH Forest Protection Bureau

April 17 to 23, 2022 was Wildfire Awareness Week in New Hampshire, and it's a perfect opportunity for everyone to learn more about wildfire in our state as well as what we all can do to protect the forest resources that are so important to our day-to-day lives.

You may know that, at 82% forest cover, New Hampshire is the second-most forested state in the country. We depend on healthy forests for recreation and jobs, as habitat for wildlife, and to help keep our air and water clean.

Wildfire Awareness Week in New Hampshire takes place in April, timed to coincide with the start of wildfire season here, when forest floors, meadows, and lawns haven't greened up yet, and the forest canopy can't provide protection from drying sunlight and spring winds, each of which make conditions even more combustible.

While wildfires in New Hampshire tend to be smaller than the dramatic fires out west that make the news, that doesn't mean they aren't destructive and dangerous. Ninety percent of wildfires in New Hampshire are human caused, and we have, on average, 250 wildfires each year, with 250 acres destroyed.

Most wildfires in New Hampshire are contained quickly and with minimal loss, but even the smallest wildfire can result in the loss of structures or other personal property. Injuries can also be a factor.

The New Hampshire Forest Protection Bureau works all year long to minimize both wildfire incidents and

their impacts. Our full-time staff covers the state from Pittsburg to Hinsdale to Rye, working closely with forest fire wardens, fire departments, fire tower lookouts, aerial surveillance, and others to implement a comprehensive program of prevention, training, early detection, hazard mitigation, and wildfire suppression. Our team is dedicated to keeping you and your loved ones safe from the damage wildfires can cause.

But our most important partner is you! You can help minimize wildfire risk in New Hampshire by developing a few good habits. These include:

- always checking with the local jurisdiction and obtaining a fire permit before burning any materials outdoors – no matter how small the fire you plan on having
- being careful about sources that you might not immediately think could start a wildfire, including sparks or heat from machinery, embers hidden in ash from a woodstove, or even stray bullets hitting rocks and igniting forest fuels
- always being sure your fire is completely out by drowning it in water, stirring it, feeling it for residual heat, and repeating the process until the heat source is 100% extinguished.

Smokey Bear's wise words, "Only you can prevent wildfires," is as true today as when he first became the icon of wildfire awareness in 1944. Please join him – and us – by remaining vigilant and on high alert for wildfire danger, not just during Wildfire Awareness Week, but also all year long.

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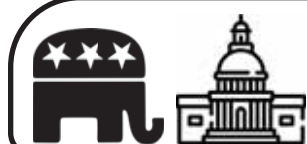


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