

Chairman Gannon and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Portsmouth in opposition to HB143. HB 143 is yet another example of this Legislature's agenda to remove local control. This bill is particularly egregious because it attempts to remove local control over all NH municipalities' own property. No Trespass Orders (NTO's) are extremely rare, and when one is issued, it is typically the last step in a long process of communication with the recipient, and the NTO is issued as a last resort for the purpose of protecting the public's health, safety and welfare. It is not only the intent of the bill that is troubling, but it is the creation of a confusing, complicated and unnecessary procedural process with shifting legal standards and criteria. These state-mandated procedural requirements, with unworkable deadlines, will require additional work for staff and each municipalities' governing bodies, which will create additional cost for taxpayers, particularly associated with potential litigation. The City of Portsmouth joins the NH Chiefs of Police Association and the New Hampshire Library Association in opposing this bill, and urges the Senate Judiciary Committee to vote HB 143 Inexpedient to Legislate.