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Comments: It is in the short- and long-term best interest not to move forward with the Lake Tarleton Integrated Resource Project.

There are many reasons why, from the simple validity of the Plan (the management plan was last revised in 2005, when the science behind conservation was much less sophisticated) to the original reason why the land was purchased by a group of concerned citizens (conservation without logging or development).

But I want to briefly focus on the tangible economic and environmental reasons.

In the short-term, it will drive away tourism that powers so much of the local economy. People will no longer come to view the beautiful landscape and enjoy the lakes and hiking trails, nor patronize local hotels and restaurants, among many other establishments. This couldn't come at a worse time as inflation eats away at the hard-earned income of so many New Hampshireites. Environmentally, the Project will destroy habitat for native species that are critical to the public health of the entire region.

Over the long-term, the Project would drive away residents to cities and states with more opportunity. It would also worsen climate change by removing vegetation that absorb carbon. All of this would damage the health and vitality of the surrounding region, and further exacerbate the economic inequality that is responsible for so much strife and polarization across the country.

That being said, the most important reason of all might be that it would deprive future generations of transformational experiences.

Having spent 7 summers at Kingswood Camp on Lake Tarleton, I know firsthand that uninterrupted access to nature can make us better and more fulfilled members of society. My wife, family, friends and thousands of others who have spent time in the area boast similar experiences: lifelong friendships, respect for the natural world, passion for sports and physical activity, and just plain fun. As a new father, I strongly believe my young son deserves the opportunity to have the same experiences, if not better ones.

Put simply, the Project would severely weaken the region, state and country at a time when economic and emotional growth are needed more than ever. The future would be much bleaker as a result.

Shame on us if we let that happen.