

Dear Members of the Rules Committee;

The Balloon Council urges you to **OPPOSE Assembly Bill 7630, which prohibits the release of certain balloons.**

The Balloon Council is an organization of balloon enthusiasts, retailers, distributors, and manufacturers—many of which are small, family-run businesses—that was formed in 1990 to educate consumers and regulators about the wonders of balloons and their proper handling. The Balloon Council actively promotes the use and enjoyment of balloons in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

Latex balloons, which are the **only** balloons that The Balloon Council promotes to be used in a balloon release, are 100 percent organic and 100 percent biodegradable. Further, industry guidelines require that balloons be self-tied and have no attached strings or ribbons as to facilitate disintegration and address other environmental concerns.

As consumers have become aware of how to safely use balloons there has been a decline of balloons found as a source of litter. The Ocean Conservancy promotes the clean use of oceans and waterways and performs cleanups whereby actual debris from the land and water is collected and then analyzed. **In a 2005 International Coastal Cleanup New York Summary Report, balloons were again not cited as one of the top sources of debris.**

The New Hampshire Legislature also reviewed similar legislation this session but the bill did not pass. One of the reasons cited for its failure was an inability to enforce such a law.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or further concerns. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
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