

LETTER

Erosion? Blame reckless development

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[For the Monitor](#)

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Thank you for your Feb. 1 and Feb. 4 articles on rerouting the Suncook River. Only weeks after our new legislators were swept into office on a budget- and deficit-cutting platform, they are proposing to spend millions on a project that will benefit only their constituents and developers. That's nothing new, but using some federal funds is a little over the top for those who abhor big-spending government.

The project is another exercise in futility. Dozens of state water bodies suffer from severe erosion as a result of reckless development. We live on the Warner River and are watching land being cleared as fast as the river shoreline is disappearing. Road washouts in the area are more frequent. Hundreds of acres were recently clear cut in the Mink Hills. Now the creeks flowing out of them are bigger and faster than ever, carrying silt, undercutting streambeds, and flooding homeowner's yards on their way down to the river.

How much do elected officials spend to keep our roads clear and our basements dry? Add to that the cost of stabilizing rivers, roads and bridges jeopardized by careless development; then add the savings realized by eliminating or restricting bailouts by the National Flood Insurance program for individuals or developers who make bad decisions. Probably translates into quite a chunk of cash in the taxpayers' pockets.

We saw how accountability played out in the housing crisis. Now we are watching it during the deficit-reduction process, when everyone takes a hit!

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