



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of CULTURAL RESOURCES

*Division of Historical Resources, State Council on the Arts,
State Library, Film & Television Office,
Commission on Native American Affairs (administratively attached)*

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His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

In accordance with RSA 4:9, the Department of Cultural Resources requests approval to accept a portrait of Governor Craig Benson, with an estimated value of \$28,000, for public viewing at the State House. Funding for the portrait was received from private donations.

EXPLANATION

Portraits of New Hampshire governors have graced the halls of our State House for generations. With the exception of the very first governor, Meshach Weare (1776-1785), and one acting governor, Ralph D. Hough (1993), the state has in its collection portraits of every governor through Jeanne Shaheen (1997-2003).

Craig R. Benson served as the 79th Governor of the State of New Hampshire from 2003 to 2005. Highly successful in the private sector, Governor Benson brought a business approach to state government, serving as a hands-on manager who focused on cost management and improving services. He was an advocate and innovator for several causes, including children's education, senior citizens and healthcare.

New Hampshire artist Richard Whitney was commissioned to paint Governor Benson's portrait. Called "one of the giants of the field" by *Fine Art Connoisseur* magazine, Whitney also received commissions to paint the official gubernatorial portraits Hugh Gregg, John W. King, Hugh J. Gallen, John H. Sununu and Judd Gregg; each is currently on view at the State House.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael York, Acting Commissioner
Department of Cultural Resources