

NH Lakes Management Advisory Committee

April 22, 2014

Voting Members:

David Packard
Chair
NH Lakes Assn.

Shane Bradt
Scientific Community

Linda Brownson
State Conservation
Committee

Fred Clews
NH Fish & Game
Commission

Robert Compton
Planning Boards

John Cooley
Conservation
Community

Kimberly Hallquist
Municipal Official

John Irwin
Marine Trades
Association

Jim Morash
Tourism Industry

Michael Summerlin
NH BIA

Dick Smith
Fishing Interests

Mary Truell
NH Association of
Realtors

Martha Twombly
Conservation
Commissions

Non-Voting Members:

Susan Slack
Vice Chair
NH Office of Energy
& Planning

Capt. Tim Dunleavy
NH Dept. of Safety

Eric Feldbaum
NH Dept. of Resources
and Econ. Dev.

Mark Hemmerlein
NH Dept. of Trans.

**David Rousseau/
Bob Wolff**
NH Dept. of
Ag, Markets & Food

Vacant
NH Fish & Game Dept.

Staff:

Jacque Colburn
Rivers and Lakes
Coordinator

Tracie Sales
Watershed Planner

The Honorable Jim Rausch, Chair
Senate Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 103
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 292 relative to registration fees for commercial, private, and pleasure vessels.

Dear Chairperson Rausch and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) is writing to express its unanimous support for House Bill 292 as amended by the House, which increases the additional fee for commercial, private and pleasure vessels.

Despite significant efforts to date by the State and many local groups, aquatic invasive species continue to expand and threaten the ecosystems and the economic viability of our lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. In a survey of New Hampshire residents, conducted in 2005, residents were asked to rate the seriousness of a range of environmental and management issues regarding our surface waters and 68% rated invasive plants as "very serious" or "serious". In addition, 67% indicated that they would change their behavior and would decrease their use if invasive plants worsened. Looking ahead, it is anticipated that more and more exotic species will invade our waters and we will therefore need to increase our efforts to combat these species. The additional fees generated by HB 292 will provide the state with additional and necessary resources to do so.

The LMAC is a legislatively created body charged to work with DES on the administration of RSA 483-A, the Lakes Management and Protection Act. The Governor and Council appointed Committee is comprised of 19 members representing academia, business, conservation organizations, lake associations, tourism, fish and game commission, marine trades, realtors, municipal government as well as several state agencies. Among its other responsibilities, the LMAC reviews legislation relevant to the state's lakes and ponds and the Lakes Program, and advises the DES Commissioner on the merits of such legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. If you have any questions regarding our testimony please do not hesitate to contact Jacquie Colburn, Coordinator, Rivers and Lakes Programs at (603) 271-2959.

Sincerely,



David Packard, Chair
Lakes Management Advisory Committee

CC: Sponsors of HB 292 (via electronic email)
LMAC Members (via electronic mail)
Comm. Burack, DES

29 Hazen Drive; PO Box 95; Concord, NH 03302-0095; Tel: 271-2959

[Welcome - Lakes Management and Protection Program - NH Department of Environmental Services](#)