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NH Lakes Assn.

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Scientific Community

Linda Brownson
State Conservation
Committee

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NH Fish & Game
Commission

Robert Compton
Planning Boards

John Cooley
Conservation
Community

Ed Crawford
Marine Trades
Association

Kimberly Hallquist
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Frank Lemay
NH BIA

Jim Morash
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Dick Smith
Fishing Interests

Mary Truell
NH Association of
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Martha Twombly
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NH Office of Energy
& Planning

Capt. Tim Dunleavy
NH Dept. of Safety

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

Garret Graaskamp
NH Fish & Game Dept.

Mark Hemmerlein
NH Dept. of Trans.

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

Staff:

Tracie Sales
Watershed Planner

VACANT
Rivers and Lakes
Programs Manager

N.H. Lakes Management and Protection Program

N.H. Lakes Management Advisory Committee

April 5, 2016

The Honorable Jeb Bradley, Chair
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
State House, Room 100
Concord, NH 03301

RE: **HB 1595-FN** *An act relative to the rivers management and protection program.*

Dear Chair Bradley and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) appreciates the opportunity to express its support for House Bill 1595-FN as amended by the House, relative to updating New Hampshire's Rivers Management and Protection Program. This bill was the result of an extensive review completed by the Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC), which included outreach to constituency groups and partners including the LMAC. Some of the topics that this bill addresses are concepts on which the LMAC and the RMAC have been working jointly as the two committees move toward implementing a watershed approach to surface water management in New Hampshire.

In particular, the change to the definition of "protected instream flow" and its use in RSA 483 reflects improved knowledge and understanding of flow-dependent uses and species. Implementation of this definition change in the Instream Flow Pilot Program has had a beneficial impact on water quality in Pawtuckaway Lake and is expected to enhance the long-term survival of several native aquatic species in the lake. Similarly, a subcommittee of the LMAC, RMAC, and others recommended that different standards be developed for the protection of lakes, rivers, and estuaries in the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act, RSA 483-B. This bill begins implementing those different standards by tailoring protections originally developed for lakes to better apply to small streams.

Finally, among the administrative changes proposed in this bill is the move to require that only one individual be nominated for each Governor and Executive Council appointed seat on the RMAC, rather than three. The LMAC has been operating successfully for more than 25 years using this single nominee process, and recommends this approach for the timely seating of qualified representatives of the various constituencies.

The LMAC is a legislatively created body charged to work with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to administer RSA 483-A, the Lakes Management and Protection Program. 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 Program and the state's lakes and ponds, and advises the NHDES Commissioner on the merits of such legislation.

In conclusion, the LMAC supports HB 1595, which updates the Rivers Management and

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Protection Program. Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at (603) 634-2299 or david.packard@eversource.com.

Sincerely,



David Packard, Chair

cc: Rep. Judith Spang
Rep. Jane Beaulieu
Rep. Susan Ford
Rep. Suzanne Gottling
Sen. Martha Fuller Clark
Sen. John Reagan

Thomas Burack, Commissioner, NHDES
Eugene Forbes, Director, Water Division, NHDES
Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Mgmt. Bur., NHDES
Tracie Sales, Watershed Planner, NHDES
LMAC Members