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State Conservation
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NH Office of Energy
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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 6, 2016

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

RE: **HB 1589-FN** *Prohibiting the transport of aquatic plants and aquatic weeds.*

Dear Chair Bradley and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) is writing to express its support for House Bill 1589, prohibiting the transport of aquatic plants and aquatic weeds on the outside of a boat or trailer. This bill also requires boats to be drained prior to transportation in most circumstances, and outlines a penalty for violations.

The presence of aquatic invasive plants and weeds in a lake can make swimming and boating difficult, significantly detracting from both residents' and visitors' enjoyment of New Hampshire's lakes. Invasive species also negatively impact the state's native flora and fauna. With most new infestations of invasive aquatic species found at boat launches, evidence is strong that these species are being introduced via boats and trailers. Once established, invasives are very difficult and expensive to eradicate. Major infestations also lead to significant impacts on waterfront real estate values. This bill will help to reduce the spread of invasive aquatic plants and animals into new waterbodies. Maintaining the high quality and clean water that residents and visitors expect of New Hampshire's roughly 1,000 lakes and ponds is essential for both our environment and our economy.

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 1589, which prohibits the transport of aquatic weeds. 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. Suzanne Gottling
Rep. Karen Ebel
Rep. John Mullen
Rep. Suzanne Smith
Rep. Judith Spang
Sen. Jeb Bradley

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