

N.H. Lakes Management and Protection Program
N.H. Lakes Management Advisory Committee

February 27, 2018

The Honorable Neal Kurk
Chair, House Finance Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 210
Concord, NH 03301

RE: **HB 1745 FN-A** *An act making appropriations for costs involved in controlling invasive aquatic species.*

Dear Chair Kurk and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill 1745, which makes an appropriation to fund further efforts to control invasive aquatic species in New Hampshire's rivers and lakes. The LMAC supports this bill with an amendment, as the committee is concerned about the source and timing of the funds this bill appropriates.

Eighty-six waterbodies in New Hampshire, 75 lakes and 11 rivers, are known to contain one or more aquatic invasive species, and there are likely additional waterbodies with existing but as yet undiscovered invasive species infestations. The need for funds to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and manage them where they have already been found exceeds existing fund availability, allowing small infestations to become larger and more difficult to control. These invasive species impact recreation by fouling boat propellers and overgrowing swimming areas, damage public utility infrastructure by clogging water intake pipes, and overtake the habitats our native fish and plants need to survive. The presence of invasive aquatic species is detrimental to New Hampshire's tourism industry and reduces lake-front property values. It is thus critical that greater efforts are made to prevent and manage them.

However, the LMAC notes that the effective date of House Bill 1745 is after the close of fiscal year 2018, the first year of the appropriation, and thus requests that the allocations be made for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2019 and June 30, 2020. In addition, the LMAC requests further information about the source of the funds this bill appropriates, as the committee does not want to see funding cut from other critical environmental health programs in order to fund HB 1745.

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

Voting Members:

David Packard
Chair
NH Lakes Assn.

Michael Hodder
Vice Chair
Planning Boards

Bruce Allen
Conservation
Commissions

Mark Borrin
Tourism Industry

Shane Bradt
Scientific Community

Linda Brownson
State Conservation
Committee

Frederick Clews
NH Fish & Game
Commission

Edmund Crawford
Marine Trades
Association

Tiffany Grade
Conservation
Community

Kimberly Hallquist
Municipal Official

Frank Lemay
NH Business and Industry
Association

Richard Smith
Fishing Interests

Mary Truell
NH Association of
Realtors

Non-Voting Members:

Capt. Tim Dunleavy
NH Dept. of Safety

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

Jennifer Gilbert
NH Office of Energy
& Planning

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
Rivers & Lakes Programs
Manager, NHDES

Kathy Black
Rivers & Lakes Programs
Assistant, NHDES

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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 with amendment House Bill 1745 to provide additional funding to manage and control the spread of invasive aquatic species which negatively impact not only our lake ecosystems, but also the recreational use of our waterbodies by residents and visitors. The requested amendment relates to the timing and source of the appropriated funds.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David W. Packard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

David Packard
Chair

cc: Rep. James McConnell
Sen. Lou D'Allesandro
Rep. Mindi Messmer
LMAC Representatives
Governor Chris Sununu
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES
Eugene Forbes, Director, Water Division, NHDES
Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Mgmt. Bur., NHDES
Tracie Sales, Rivers and Lakes Programs Manager, NHDES