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N.H. Lakes Management and Protection Program

N.H. Lakes Management Advisory Committee

April 3, 2018

The Honorable Chris Christensen
Chair, House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 305
Concord, NH 03301

RE: **SB 445** *An act designating the Warner River as a protected river*

Dear Chair Christensen and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 445, which will designate the Warner River into the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP). The LMAC supports this bill.

The designation of the Warner River, including a short segment of the Warner River West Branch, will make it the 19th river protected under the RMPP. On entering the program, the Warner River will become eligible for management under the Instream Flow Program, a program which ensures that New Hampshire's rivers retain enough water for both wildlife, such as the native brook trout that live in the Warner River watershed, and people.

Because the Warner River has no large direct water withdrawals, the LMAC does not expect application of the Instream Flow Program on this river to be onerous. However, because one aspect of Instream Flow involves brief releases of water from lakes and impoundments in order to supplement rivers during periods of very low flow, the LMAC has found development of a water management plan under the Instream Flow Program to be an excellent starting point from which to apply holistic watershed management techniques. For example, these management techniques proved beneficial in the Lamprey River watershed during the Instream Flow Pilot Program, where implementation resulted not only in improved streamflow, but also reduced phosphorus in Pawtuckaway Lake and increased communication between river and lake interest groups in the watershed.

The LMAC understands that the Warner River is a popular destination for both local and visiting white water paddlers, and is easily accessible in several locations from State Route 103, which parallels the river along much of its length. As a strong proponent of public access to the state's lakes and rivers, the LMAC supports the formation of the Warner River

local river management advisory committee that will accompany the river's designation. This local advisory committee will care for and promote the wise use of the river including public access to it.

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 Senate Bill 445 for its ability to promote balanced use of surface water resources in the Warner River watershed.

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

Sincerely,



David Packard
Chair

cc: Sen. Dan Feltes
Sen. Jeb Bradley
Sen. Martha Fuller Clark
Sen. Ruth Ward
Rep. Clyde Carson
Rep. David Luneau
Rep. John Mullen
Rep. Mel Myler
Rep. Suzanne Smith
LMAC Representatives
Governor Chris Sununu
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES
Eugene Forbes, Director, Water Division, NHDES
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