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**Edmund Crawford**  
Marine Trades  
Association

**Tiffany Grade**  
Conservation  
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**Frank Lemay**  
NH Business and Industry  
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**Richard Smith**  
Fishing Interests

**Mary Truell**  
NH Association of  
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**Capt. Tim Dunleavy**  
NH Dept. of Safety

**Eric Feldbaum**  
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NH Office of Strategic  
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**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

N.H. Lakes Management and Protection Program

# N.H. Lakes Management Advisory Committee

April 10, 2018

The Honorable Kevin Avard  
Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
State House, Room 103  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: **HB 1810** *An act establishing a commission to study the effectiveness of the current statutes related to the management of non-tidal public water ways and the construction or placement of structures within them.*

Dear Chair Avard and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill 1810, which creates a study commission on docks and other structures placed within the waters of the state. The LMAC supports this bill.

This bill, which proposes a comprehensive study of the laws governing fresh-water docks and similar structures by a broad range of stakeholders, is a good solution to the haphazard proposal of legislation which considers an issue from only one perspective. Over the past few years there have been several bills that have proposed a myriad of changes to the laws governing structures, specifically docks, in New Hampshire's lakes and rivers. Each proposed change, such as increasing the allowed length of a dock or reducing the minimum setback from adjacent property, addresses a single issue, but has not comprehensively addressed the impact each proposed change will have on the public's enjoyment of our state's waters. Lakes, ponds greater than 10 acres, and rivers are held by the State of New Hampshire in trust for all. Therefore, it is essential that laws governing the placement of privately-owned structures within these State-owned waterbodies balance the owner's personal enjoyment of the lake or river with the rights of the public to safely use and enjoy those waterbodies.

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.

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In conclusion, the LMAC supports House Bill 1810 because it proposes a comprehensive study of the laws governing the placement of structures in the state's lakes, ponds and rivers so that the full impact of any proposed changes will be understood.

Should you have further questions about this testimony, please feel free to contact me at (603) 634-2299 or [david.packard@graniteshorepower.com](mailto: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. John Mullen  
Rep. Gene Chandler  
Rep. Mark McConkey  
Sen. Jeb Bradley  
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