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Scientific Community

**Linda Brownson**  
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**Frederick Clews**  
NH Fish & Game  
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**Edmund Crawford**  
Marine Trades  
Association

**Tiffany Grade**  
Conservation  
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**Kimberly Hallquist**  
Municipal Official

**Frank Lemay**  
NH Business and Industry  
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**Richard Smith**  
Fishing Interests

**Mary Truell**  
NH Association of  
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NH Dept. of Safety

**Eric Feldbaum**  
NH Dept. of Natural and  
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**Jennifer Gilbert**  
NH Office of Strategic  
Initiatives

**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 18, 2018

The Honorable Sharon Carson  
Chair, Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 101  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: **HB 1310** *An act establishing a committee to study all non-regulatory boards and commissions.*

Dear Chair Carson and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill 1310, which will establish a study committee to determine which non-regulatory boards, commissions, councils, and committees are no longer needed. The LMAC opposes this bill as introduced.

Each board, commission, council, and committee was created to fulfill a need not otherwise met via regulatory means. Among these is the LMAC, which was established by the Lakes Management and Protection Act of 1990 as RSA 483-A and is charged with advising the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and the legislature on carrying out the purposes of the Lakes Management and Protection Program. This purpose is stated in RSA 483-A:3:

It is the intent of the legislature that the New Hampshire lakes management and protection program shall complement and reinforce existing state and federal water quality laws. It is also the intent of the legislature that, through said program, the scenic beauty and recreational potential of lakes shall be maintained or enhanced, that wildlife habitat shall be protected, that opportunity for public enjoyment of lake uses be ensured, and that littoral interests shall be respected.

In fulfilling this purpose, the LMAC's 19 members represent academia, business interests, conservation organizations, lake associations, the tourism industry, the Fish and Game Commission, marine trades, realtors, municipal government and several state agencies on lake management-related issues. With the exception of its six, non-voting, state-agency members, LMAC representatives are volunteers who spent an estimated 734 hours of volunteer time in 2017, valued at \$17,700, working on lake management concerns in New Hampshire and communicating with the organizations they represent.

Among its lake protection responsibilities, the LMAC reviews legislation and rules relevant to the Program and the state's lakes and ponds, and advises the NHDES Commissioner and Legislature on the merits of such proposed laws. The LMAC also

reviews proposed disposals of state-owned land adjacent to lakes and ponds in order to ensure that the public's interest in the lakes, including water quality, lake access and wildlife protection, will not be harmed by the disposal. Finally, the LMAC advocates for lake interests in the activities undertaken by the state. A good example of this lake advocacy is the joint effort between the LMAC and the Rivers Management Advisory Committee to resolve the potential conflict of interest of using water stored in lakes to supplement river flows during times of drought. The two committees' efforts created the [Comprehensive Surface Water Resource Management Policy](#) to set forth guiding principles for coordinated surface water management in the state.

Because the majority of non-regulatory boards and commissions are providing valuable services to the State of New Hampshire and its citizens, generally on a voluntary basis, the LMAC feels that a study committee to review the effectiveness of such commissions is ill-advised as it may send a message that their contributions on behalf of the many stakeholder organizations they represent are not welcomed by state government. The LMAC feels that the findings of the proposed study will only serve to emphasize the value of the services these committees provide.

In conclusion, the LMAC opposes House Bill 1310 as introduced because the majority of the committees to be reviewed under this bill are providing valuable services to the state, and the need to defend their existence will take valuable volunteer time away from their legislatively mandated duties.

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,



David Packard  
Chair

cc: Rep. Herbert Richardson  
Rep. Dennis Fields  
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