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NH Fish & Game Dept.

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Staff:

Tracie Sales
Program Manager

Jen Drociak
Watershed Coordinator

Mariah Mitchell
Program Assistant

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

April 11, 2019

The Honorable Martha Fuller Clark, Chair
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 101
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 475 *Establishing a shoreland septic system study commission.*

Dear Chair Fuller Clark and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) is writing to express its support for House Bill 475, which will establish a study commission to examine the impact of failing private shoreland septic systems on the state's rivers and lakes.

Septic systems installed without state approval, and those constructed prior to 1967 when inspections and state approval were first required, inevitably include septic systems that inadequately treat wastewater. As such, these inadequate or "failing" septic systems can leach phosphorous and other chemicals, leading to increased *E.coli* bacteria and cyanobacteria blooms, threatening the water quality of New Hampshire's lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams, and impacting recreation and the economic value of these waterbodies. On many lakes and ponds, inadequate waste water treatment is thought to be a leading contributor to the high bacteria levels and cyanobacteria blooms that result in the closure of our state's beaches and threaten the health of swimmers, especially children, pets, and wildlife.

There are several difficult issues with detecting and accomplishing upgrades of septic systems on private properties which have prevented the problem from being solved statewide. As such, the LMAC agrees that these issues need to be examined via a comprehensive study to determine the most effective method for identifying potential inadequate septic systems and to determine what approach or approaches can be taken to remedy these inadequacies.

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 HB 475 relative to establishing a shoreland septic system study commission.

Should you have further questions about this testimony, please feel free to contact me at (603) 867-9299 or appliedforce52@gmail.com.

Sincerely,



David Packard
Chair

ec: Rep. Judith Spang
Sen. Jeb Bradley
Sen. Dan Feltes
Sen. Martha Fuller Clark
Sen. David Watters
Rep. Dennis Malloy
Rep. Lee Oxenham
LMAC Representatives
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES
Thomas O'Donovan, Director, Water Division, NHDES
Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Mgmt. Bur., NHDES
Tracie Sales, Rivers and Lakes Programs Manager, NHDES