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Chair
NH Lakes Assn.

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Conservation
Commissions

Mark Borrin
Tourism Industry

Shane Bradt
Scientific Community

Edmund Crawford
Marine Trades
Association

Tiffany Grade
Conservation
Community

Janet Kidder
Planning Boards

Frank Lemay
NH BIA

Lisa Morin
State Conservation
Committee (*pending*)

Rex Norman
Municipal Official

Dick Smith
Fishing Interests

Bruce Temple
NH Fish & Game
Commission (*pending*)

Mary Truell
NH Association of
Realtors

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Vice Chair
NH Fish & Game Dept.

Capt. Tim Dunleavy
NH Dept. of Safety

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NH Dept. of Natural and
Cultural Resources

Jennifer Gilbert
NH Office of Strategic
Initiatives

Mark Hemmerlein
NH Dept. of Trans.

David Rousseau
NH Dept. of
Ag, Markets & Food

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 23, 2019

The Honorable Martha Fuller Clark, Chair
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Senate House, Room 103
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 326 *relative to the definition of prime wetland.*

Dear Chair Fuller Clark and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) is writing to express its support for House Bill 326 as introduced, which adds narrow areas of wetland to the definition of prime wetland when the area provides important wetland values.

The proposed expanded definition of prime wetland would allow municipalities to include narrower portions, or “fingers” of wetlands in their designation. These narrower portions could be fringe wetlands, low-gradient feeder stream systems, or connectors between two larger wetland systems and provide significant habitat for macroinvertebrate, fish, birds, and wildlife. As such, these narrower portions can provide a significant contribution to the wetland functions and values of the prime wetland. The LMAC believes the current exclusion of these narrower portions is arbitrary and not based upon science. Thus, the LMAC supports HB 326 to allow these narrower portions to be included as prime wetlands.

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 HB 326 as introduced relative to the definition of a prime wetland because it would include sensitive narrower portions of these wetlands which can be as significant as the larger wetland itself in their functions and values.

The Honorable Martha Fuller Clark
Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
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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. Chuck Grassie
Rep. Joshua Adjutant
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