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NH Lakes Assn.

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Commissions

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Tourism Industry

Shane Bradt
Scientific Community

Edmund Crawford
Marine Trades
Association

Tiffany Grade
Conservation
Community

Janet Kidder
Planning Boards

Frank Lemay
NH BIA

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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:

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Watershed Coordinator

Mariah Mitchell
Program Assistant

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

April 24, 2019

The Honorable Mary Jane Wallner, Chair
House Finance Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 210-211
Concord, NH 03301

RE: SB 254 *Appropriating funds to the department of environmental services for the purpose of funding eligible wastewater projects under the state aid grant program.*

Dear Chair Wallner and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 254, which will make appropriations to fund wastewater projects in New Hampshire under RSA 486 in fiscal years 2020 and 2021. The LMAC supports this bill.

The state aid grant program for water pollution control is a critical resource for communities who need to update their water treatment infrastructure but may not be able to afford these important projects. Replacing aging infrastructure invariably improves the quality of the water entering New Hampshire's lakes and rivers and is essential not only for the health of these water bodies and the fish and wildlife that rely on them, but also for the health of residents who utilize them for drinking water and recreation. New Hampshire's clean lakes and rivers are key components to attracting tourists and maintaining a vibrant state economy.

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 SB 254 because it would allow NHDES to fund eligible wastewater projects through the state aid grant program during the fiscal years of 2020 and 2021, supporting upgrades to deficient wastewater infrastructure and clean water in New Hampshire.

The Honorable Mary Jane Wallner
Chair, House Finance 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: Sen. Jeb Bradley
Rep. Thomas Buco
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