

LAKES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NH Lakes Management and Protection Program

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095

January 13, 2011

The Honorable Andrew Renzullo, Chairman
Resources, Recreation and Development Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 305
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 44 - An Act designating segments of the Oyster River as protected under the Rivers Management and Protection Program

Dear Chairman Renzullo and Members of the Committee:

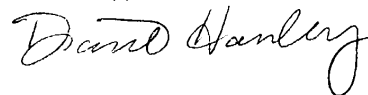
The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) is writing to express its support for House Bill 44 which designates segments of the Oyster River into the Rivers Management and Protection Program.

As you may know, in 2008 the Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) and Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) collaborated and produced *The Sustainability of New Hampshire's Surface Waters*. In this document the committees point out that the State has grown rapidly over the past several decades, especially in the Seacoast region and that accelerated development in our watersheds is causing a deterioration of river and lake resources. The Oyster River corridor supports several wildlife and fish assemblages which are worthy of protection, however portions of the river are impaired for dissolved oxygen and pH for aquatic life. If we hope to preserve our surface waters as significant economic, social, recreational and quality of life assets for the State, then long-term resource management with an emphasis on local and state government working cooperatively with grassroots organizations, such as the Oyster River Watershed Association is appropriate to sustain these highly valued resources. Designating segments of the Oyster River into the Rivers Management and Protection Program is a positive step toward achieving this goal.

The LMAC is a legislatively created body charged to work with the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) on the administration of RSA 483-A, the Lakes Management and Protection Act. The Governor and Council appointed Committee is comprised of members from academia, business, conservation organizations, lake associations, tourism, fish and game commission, marine trades, realtors, and municipal government. Among its other responsibilities, the LMAC is charged with reviewing legislation relevant to the LMPP and with advising the DES Commissioner on the merits of such legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. If you have any questions regarding our testimony please do not hesitate to contact Jacquie Colburn, Lakes Coordinator at (603) 271-2959.

Sincerely,



Diane Hanley, Chair
Lakes Management Advisory Committee

cc: Representative Kappler
Representative Wall
Representative Kaen
Representative Cataldo
Representative Vita
Senator Merrill
James Richardson, Governor's Office

Kenneth Kimball, RMAC Chair (*via email*)
Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner, DES (*via email*)
Harry Stewart, DES (*via email*)
Paul Currier, DES (*via email*)
Steve Couture, DES (*via email*)
Jacquie Colburn, DES (*via email*)
LMAC members (*via email*)

NH FISH AND GAME COMMISSION - STATE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
UNH SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY - NH BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION - NH TRAVEL COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL CONSERVATION COMMISSION - MUNICIPAL PLANNING BOARD - ELECTED MUNICIPAL OFFICIAL
NH LAKES ASSOCIATION - CONSERVATION COMMUNITY - NH ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS - NH MARINE TRADES ASSOCIATION
NH FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT - NH DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - NH DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY
NH OFFICE OF ENERGY AND PLANNING - NH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, MARKETS AND FOOD - NH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION