

Voting Members:

David Packard
Chair
NH Lakes Assn.

Bruce Allen
Conservation
Commissions

Shane Bradt
Scientific Community

Tiffany Grade
Conservation
Community

Janet Kidder
Planning Boards

Frank Lemay
NH BIA

Jared Maraio
NH Travel Council

Lisa Morin
State Conservation
Committee

Rex Norman
Municipal Official

Dick Smith
Fishing Interests

Bruce Temple
NH Fish & Game
Commission

Mary Truell
NH Association of
Realtors

Vacant
Marine Trades
Association

Non-Voting Members:

Garret Graaskamp
Vice Chair
NH Fish & Game Dept.

Capt. Tim Dunleavy
NH Dept. of Safety

Eric Feldbaum
NH Dept. of Natural and
Cultural Resources

Jennifer Gilbert
NH Office of Strategic
Initiatives

Mark Hemmerlein
NH Dept. of Trans.

Shawn Jasper
NH Dept. of
Ag, Markets & Food

Staff:

Tracie Sales
Program Manager

Vacant
Watershed Coordinator

Vacant
Program Assistant

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

January 13, 2021

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

RE: HB 426 - AN ACT relative to shoreland septic systems.

Dear Chair Renzullo and Members of the Committee:

RSA 483-A established the New Hampshire Lakes Management and Protection Program and the Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) to complement and reinforce existing state and federal water quality laws. Within its responsibilities of advising the NHDES Commissioner and the department, the LMAC reviews and takes positions on legislation pertaining to New Hampshire lakes. The LMAC appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill 426.

At the meeting of the LMAC on January 11, 2021, the LMAC voted to support HB 426. This bill provides guidance to individuals who purchase a developed waterfront property within 250 feet of the water reference line. The bill mandates that the septic system either be currently approved by NHDES (within 20 years) or that it be inspected, evaluated, and certified to be in compliance with all current requirements. This legislation will address the situation where the failure of aged or inadequate septic systems goes unaddressed. Leeching of septic fields into surface waters is unhealthy and can lead to outbreaks of cyanobacteria, or worse.

The LMAC is a legislatively created body of stakeholders, in support of lakes, representing the NH Lakes Association, conservation commissions, scientific community, conservation community, planning boards, Business and Industry Association, tourism industry, state conservation committee, NH Municipal Association, fishing interests, NH Fish & Game Commission, NH Association of Realtors, Marine Trades Association, and several state agencies. Committee members are appointed by the Governor and Council or the head of the state agency and are charged with supporting the legislative intent of the Lakes Management and Protection Program.

In conclusion, the LMAC supports HB 426 for the reasons stated above. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have further questions about this letter, please feel free to contact me at (603) 867-9299 or appliedforce52@gmail.com.

Respectfully,



David Packard
Chair

ec: Rep. Judith Spang
Sen. David Watters
LMAC Representatives
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES

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Tom O'Donovan, Director, Water Division, NHDES
Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Mgmt. Bur., NHDES
Tracie Sales, Rivers and Lakes Programs Manager, NHDES