

# N.H. Rivers Management Advisory Committee

April 1, 2011

The Honorable Bob Odell, Chair  
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 102  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 149: An Act designating segments of the Lamprey, North Branch, Pawtuckaway, North, Little and Piscassic Rivers as a protected rivers.

Dear Chair Odell and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its unanimous support for House Bill 149, which designates the segments of the Lamprey North Branch, Pawtuckaway, North, Little and Piscassic Rivers into the Rivers Management and Protection Act (RMPA), RSA 483, but its opposition to the exemption of the less than 4<sup>th</sup> order river segments from the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA).

The RMAC is a legislatively created body charged to work with the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) on the administration of RSA 483, the RMPP. The Governor and Council appointed Committee is comprised of members from the business, agriculture, hydroelectric, municipal government, water supply, conservation, recreation, fish and game, and historical interests. Among its other responsibilities, the RMAC is charged with reviewing legislation relevant to the RMPP and with advising the DES Commissioner on the merits of such legislation.

The nomination to include the Lamprey North Branch, Pawtuckaway, North, Little and Piscassic Rivers into the RMPA was submitted for consideration on June 1, 2010 and revised on June 24, 2010. Since then, the RMAC has met with the sponsor of the nomination – the Lamprey River Nominating Committee - to learn more about the rivers and discuss the nomination. The RMAC conducted a site visit of the river with the sponsors on August 31, 2010 and convened a public hearing in Epping in coordination with the Acting Rivers Coordinator to receive public comment on the nomination. At its September 28 meeting, the RMAC reviewed all nomination materials for consistency with RSA 483 and the nomination rules, as well as public and elected officials input.

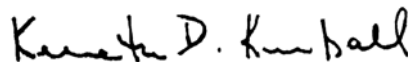
The RMAC was impressed with the level of public support demonstrated for the nomination at the public hearing, and with the number of endorsements received from local, elected officials, with approximately 50 people in attendance. All of the testimony was in favor of the designation of the Lamprey North Branch, Pawtuckaway, North, Little and Piscassic Rivers. Letters of endorsement were received from the elected officials of all 13 river corridor communities within the nominated reaches.

Due to the unanimous support and extraordinary outreach and education effort put forth throughout the nomination effort, the RMAC is opposed to the exemption of the less than 4<sup>th</sup> order river segments from the CSPA. The municipalities and riparian landowners were afforded the opportunity to express reservations about the designation and the CSPA regulations and no opposition or comments were received in that regard. The RMAC feels the amendment usurps local control and is bad precedent and spot legislation.

In conclusion, the RMAC unanimously supports HB 149, which would designate the Lamprey North Branch, Pawtuckaway, North, Little and Piscassic Rivers into the Rivers Management and Protection Act, but strongly opposes the exemption of the less than 4<sup>th</sup> order river segments from the (CSPA).

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at (603) 466-8149 or [kkimball@outdoors.org](mailto:kkimball@outdoors.org).

Sincerely,



Kenneth D. Kimball, Ph.D., Chairman  
Rivers Management Advisory Committee

Voting Members:

**Kenneth D. Kimball**  
Chair  
Recreational  
Interests

**Michele L. Tremblay**  
Vice Chair  
Conservation  
Community

**VACANT**  
Agricultural  
Community

**Donald L. Ware**  
Public  
Water Suppliers

**James W. Ryan**  
NH Fish & Game  
Commission

**Allan G. Palmer**  
Business & Industry  
Association

**Gary L. Kerr**  
Granite State  
Hydropower  
Association

**Larry T. Spencer**  
Conservation  
Commissions

**Anne Krantz**  
Historic/Archeological  
Interests

**Fredrick J. McNeill**  
Municipal  
Officer

**Kathryn P. Nelson**  
Local River  
Management  
Advisory Committees

Non-Voting Members:

**Jennifer Czysz**  
NH Office of  
Energy & Planning

**Johanna Lyons**  
NH Department of  
Resources and  
Economic  
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**John Magee**  
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**Kevin Nyhan**  
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Transportation

**Gail McWilliam  
Jellie**  
NH Department of  
Agriculture,  
Markets & Food

**Lance Harbour**  
NH Department of  
Safety

Staff:

**Steven M. Couture**  
Rivers Coordinator  
NH Department of  
Environmental  
Services

cc:

Representative Kappler	Rick Healey, Chair, Cocheco River LAC ( <i>via email</i> )
Representative Wall	Jenny Polcari, Co-Chair, Cold River LAC ( <i>via email</i> )
Representative Case	Theresa Darling, Business Manager, CRJC ( <i>via email</i> )
Representative Comerford	Michelle Hamm, Chair Contoocook River LAC ( <i>via email</i> )
Representative Antosz	Don Clement, Chair, Exeter River LAC ( <i>via email</i> )
Senator Merrill	Liz Evans, Chair, Isinglass River LAC ( <i>via email</i> )
RMAC members ( <i>via email</i> )	Sarah Callaghan, Chair, Lamprey River LAC ( <i>via email</i> )
Tom Burack, Commissioner, DES ( <i>via email</i> )	Kathryn Nelson, Chair, Lower Merrimack River LAC ( <i>via email</i> )
Mike Walls, Assistant Commission, DES ( <i>via email</i> )	Max Stamp, Chair, Pemigewasset River LAC ( <i>via email</i> )
Harry Stewart, Director, Water Division, DES ( <i>via email</i> )	Dick Ludders, Chair, Piscataquog River LAC ( <i>via email</i> )
Paul Currier, Administrator, WMB, DES ( <i>via email</i> )	George May, Chair, Souhegan River LAC ( <i>via email</i> )
Steven M. Couture, Rivers Coordinator, DES ( <i>via email</i> )	Robert Parrish, Chair, Swift River LAC ( <i>via email</i> )
Charlie Ryan, Chair, Ammonoosuc River LAC ( <i>via email</i> )	Michele L. Tremblay, Chair, Upper Merrimack LAC ( <i>via email</i> )
Barbara Skuly, Chair, Ashuelot River LAC	

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<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/rmac/index.htm>