

# N.H. Rivers Management Advisory Committee

April 1, 2011

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

**RE: HB 336: An Act designating segments of the Mascoma River as a protected river.**

Dear Chair Odell and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its unanimous support for House Bill 336, which designates the segments of the Mascoma River into the Rivers Management and Protection Act (RMPA), RSA 483.

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.

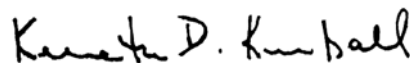
The nomination to include the Mascoma River into the RMPP was submitted for consideration on June 1, 2010. Since then, the RMAC has met with the sponsor of the nomination - the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission on behalf of the Mascoma River Nominating Committee - to learn more about the river and discuss the nomination. We also conducted a site visit of the river with the sponsors on August 5, 2010. Later that day, the RMAC held a public hearing in Lebanon in coordination with the Acting Rivers Coordinator to receive public comment on the nomination. At the RMAC's September 28<sup>th</sup> 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. Approximately 25 people attended the public hearing. All who testified at the hearing supported designation of the Mascoma River. Of significance, letters of endorsement were received from the elected officials of all three towns within the nominated river reaches, Canaan, Enfield and Lebanon<sup>1</sup>.

In conclusion, the RMAC unanimously supports HB 336, which would designate the Mascoma River into the Rivers Management and Protection Act.

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

1. The planning board and selectmen are elected in Canaan; the planning board voted to support the nomination and the selectmen voted to remain neutral on the nomination. The appointed Conservation Commission of Canaan also voted to support the nomination.

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  
Development

**John Magee**  
NH Fish & Game  
Department

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

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