

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 555: An Act relative to the designation of the Lower Exeter/Squamscott 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 555, which seeks to designate the Lower Exeter/Squamscott River as a protected river.

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.

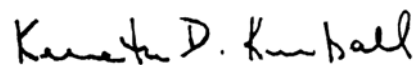
The nomination to include the Lower Exeter/Squamscott River into the RMPA was submitted for consideration on May 24, 2010 and revised on June 21, 2010. Since then, the RMAC has met with the sponsor of the nomination – the Exeter River Local Advisory Committee (ERLAC) - to learn more about the river and discuss the nomination. The nomination of Lower Exeter/Squamscott River represents ERLAC's long-term objective to designate the entire Exeter/Squamscott River, the upper portion of which was designated in 1995. The RMAC conducted a site visit of the river with the sponsors on July 14, 2010 and convened a public hearing in Stratham 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 25 people in attendance. All of the testimony was in favor of the designation of the Lower Exeter/Squamscott River. Letters of endorsement were received from the elected officials of all three river corridor communities, Exeter, Stratham and Newfields within the nominated reaches. Throughout the nomination process no letters of opposition were received.

In conclusion, the RMAC unanimously supports HB 555, which would designate the Lower Exeter/Squamscott 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.

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

29 Hazen Drive; PO Box 95; Concord, NH 03302-0095; Tel: 271-8811; Fax 271-7894

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