

N.H. Rivers Management and Protection Program

N.H. Rivers Management Advisory Committee

March 27, 2013

Voting Members:

Kenneth D. Kimball
Chair
Recreational
Interests

Michele L. Tremblay
Vice Chair
Conservation
Community

Roger Noonan
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:

Susan Slack
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

Vacant

NH Department of Safety

Staff:

Jacque Colburn
Rivers Coordinator
NH Department of
Environmental Services

The Honorable Russell Prescott, Chairman
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 101
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 513 – An Act pertaining to the Shoreland Protection Act

Dear Chairman Prescott and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its unanimous support for House Bill 513 as amended, which would modify certain provisions of the shoreland protection act.

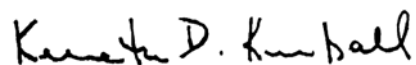
As you know, our rivers, lakes and their shorelands are significant and highly valued. Realizing the importance of these resources to the state's natural history and economic well-being and in an effort to ensure that these resources would not be inappropriately developed or misused, your predecessors enacted the Rivers Management and Protection Act (RSA 483) in 1988, the Lakes Management and Protection Act (RSA 483-A) in 1990, and the Shoreland Protection Act (RSA 483-B) in 1991.

In recent sessions of the General Court, the Shoreland Act has been amended such that its standards are no longer as protective of water quality and the provisions pertaining to enforcement have been modified making it more difficult for the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) to respond and address violations. These changes and other amendments that have been made to the Act in the last few years also make it more difficult for municipalities, businesses, and the public to understand, severely compromising the Act's effectiveness. Furthermore, with declining funds to address and remedy water quality issues, from the federal to state to local levels, and the fact that nonpoint water pollution (runoff) is a major contributor to our state's decline in water quality, the need to have effective shoreland buffers that intercept and treat land runoff is paramount to good water quality in the State. Improper shoreland development also adds to nonpoint source pollution runoff. Maintaining adequate shoreland protection is one of the most cost effective means to protect our state's water quality. HB 513 seeks to rectify these recent legislative changes and return the Act to its original intent and ability to protect the state's water quality in the most cost effective way.

The RMAC is a legislatively created body charged to work with the NH Department of Environmental Services on the administration of RSA 483, the Rivers Management and Protection Program. 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.

In conclusion, the RMAC unanimously supports HB 513 as amended, which would modify several provisions of the shoreland 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

cc: Rep. Spang
Rep. Beaulieu
Rep. Borden
Rep. Lovett
Rep. Renzullo
Sen. Bradley
Sen. Fuller Clark
Sen. Odell
RMAC Members (via electronic mail)
LAC Chairs (via electronic mail)
Comm. Burack, DES