

N.H. Rivers Management Advisory Committee

January 25, 2011

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

RE: HB 27: An Act relative to de minimis impact work in designated rivers.

Dear Chair Renzullo and Members of the Committee:

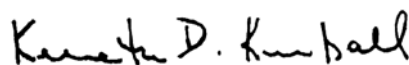
The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its unanimous support for House Bill 27, if amended per the attached, to provide the Department of Transportation (DOT) with flexibility in its maintenance operations along natural rivers in the Rivers Management and Protection Program (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.

In conclusion, the RMAC unanimously supports HB 427, if amended per the attached, to provide the Department of Transportation (DOT) with flexibility in its maintenance operations along natural rivers in the Rivers Management and protection Program (RSA 483).

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:

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

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

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

HB 27 PROPOSED AMENDMENT LANGUAGE

Natural Rivers Protection. RSA 483:9, III(b) is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

(b) Permanent ~~channel~~ alterations to ~~restore the channel's geomorphic characteristics, which have only de minimis impact, and are made~~ in conjunction with the repair or maintenance of a bridge, road or riprap which is in place at the time a river or segment is designated ***which has only de minimis impact to or restores the channel's geomorphic characteristics.***

Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage. ↪