

# N.H. Rivers Management Advisory Committee

February 10, 2011

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

**RE: HB 468- FN: An Act relative to assessments for aquatic resource compensatory mitigation.**

Dear Chair Renzullo and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its unanimous opposition for House Bill 468-FN, which seeks to decrease the percentage rate of certain administrative assessments related to aquatic resource compensatory mitigation.

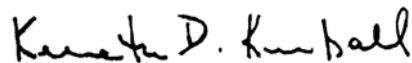
The RMAC is a legislatively created body charged to work with the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) on the administration of RSA 483, the RMPP. The Governor and Council appointed Committee is comprised of members from the business, agriculture, hydroelectric, municipal government, water supply, 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 RMAC's opposition is based on the understanding that the reduction of administrative assessments retained by DES, as a percentage of payments into the Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) fund, may impact DES' ability to manage the fund due to reduced staffing. The ARM fund serves as a method for development project applicants impacting wetlands, who otherwise are unable to mitigate such impacts, to make payments into the fund that are then distributed to outside organizations for wetland enhancement projects. ARM is also an effective tool to satisfy federal requirements. These wetland enhancement projects directly and more effectively protect or restore river resources throughout the state. Without adequate staffing levels DES will not be able to properly administer the ARM fund, there will be a reduction in the quality and quantity of wetland enhancement projects conducted aimed at protecting the state's water resources with the greatest efficacy. The risk of failing to satisfy federal requirements and potentially a more burdensome and slower process for those Applicants seeking to use the ARM process also exists.

In conclusion, the RMAC unanimously opposes House Bill 468-FN, which seeks to decrease the percentage rate of certain administrative assessments related to aquatic resource compensatory mitigation.

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

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NH Fish & Game  
Commission

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Business & Industry  
Association

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

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Municipal  
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NH Office of  
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**Lance Harbour**  
NH Department of  
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Staff:

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

CC:

Representative Ahlgren  
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)*  
Bob Robbins, Chair, Lower Merrimack River LAC *(via email)*  
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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)*

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

