

N.H. Rivers Management Advisory Committee

February 3, 2011

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

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

Dear Chair Renzullo 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.

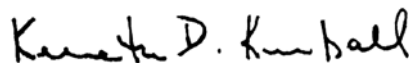
The nomination to include the Mascoma River into the RMPP was submitted for consideration on June 1, 2010. Since then, the RMAC has met with the sponsor of the nomination - the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission on behalf of the Mascoma River Nominating Committee - to learn more about 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 28th 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 Lebanon¹.

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.

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>)	Bob Robbins, 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>

