

# N.H. Rivers Management Advisory Committee

March 18, 2015

Representative Chris Christensen, Chairman  
Resources, Recreation, and Development  
Room 305, Legislative Office Building  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: SB 38 Establishing a Commission to Develop a Land Conservation Plan

Dear Chair Christensen and Members of the Committee:

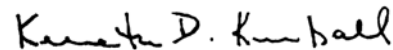
The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its support for Senate Bill 38, establishing a commission to develop a land conservation plan for New Hampshire. SB 38, which would build upon the work conducted in 2014 by the SB 388 study committee, indicates the state's commitment to preserving its natural heritage. As the state continues to grow and develop, it is critical to ensure that the valued natural resources that attract both visitors and new residents to New Hampshire are a protected adequately for present and future generations. The legislature is to be commended for being proactive and undertaking this long-term strategic planning effort.

As you know, our rivers, lakes and their shorelands are highly valued, and the RMAC has an important role in their protection. The committee is legislatively charged with reviewing and commenting on state-owned riverfront land that is proposed for disposal by the state. Through a process to assess the natural and cultural values of these properties, the RMAC has found that many parcels are worth retaining by the state. Further, some of these riverfront parcels would be of even greater value if they were connected to other significant conservation lands throughout the watershed, not only physically but also via coordinated conservation plans. A comprehensive approach to land conservation in New Hampshire would ensure that water quality is protected, that wildlife corridors are maintained, and that the public has the opportunity to enjoy the unique features these areas possess. Preserving, maintaining and enhancing the attributes and uses of our natural resources contribute significantly to the state's economic well-being.

The RMAC is a legislatively created body charged to work with the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to administer RSA 483, the Rivers Management and Protection Program. The Governor and Council appointed Committee is comprised of members from 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 Program and with advising the NHDES Commissioner on the merits of such legislation.

In conclusion, the RMAC supports SB 38, which would establish a commission to develop a state-wide land conservation plan. 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., Chair

cc: Sen. Martha Fuller Clark  
Sen. Dan Feltes  
Sen. Gerald Little  
Sen. Jeanie Forrester  
Rep. Judith Spang  
Rep. Suzanne Smith

Thomas Burack, Commissioner, DES  
Eugene Forbes, Director, Water Division, DES  
Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Management Bureau, DES  
Jacquie Colburn, Rivers Coordinator, DES  
RMAC Members  
Local River Management Advisory Committee Chair

Voting Members:

**Kenneth D. Kimball**  
Chair  
Recreational Interests

**Michele L. Tremblay**  
Vice Chair  
Conservation  
Community

**Anne Krantz**  
Historic/Archeological  
Interests

**Alan Larter**  
Granite State  
Hydropower  
Association

**Fredrick J. McNeill**  
Municipal Officer

**Roger Noonan**  
Agricultural Community

**Allan G. Palmer**  
Business & Industry  
Association

**James W. Ryan**  
NH Fish & Game  
Commission

**Larry T. Spencer**  
Conservation  
Commissions

**Donald L. Ware**  
Public Water Suppliers

**Vacant**  
Local River Management  
Advisory Committees

Non-Voting Members:

**Mark Hemmerlein**  
NH Department of  
Transportation

**Patrick Hummel**  
NH Department of  
Resources and  
Economic  
Development

**John Magee**  
NH Fish & Game  
Department

**Gail McWilliam Jellie**  
NH Department of  
Agriculture,  
Markets & Food

**Elizabeth Peck**  
NH Department of  
Safety

**Susan Slack**  
NH Office of  
Energy & Planning

Staff:

**Jacquie Colburn**  
Rivers and Lakes  
Coordinator, NH DES

**Tracie Sales**  
Watershed Planner  
NH DES