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Association

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Roger Noonan
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Allan G. Palmer
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Commission

Larry T. Spencer
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Local River Management
Advisory Committees

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Public Water Suppliers

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NH Department of
Transportation

Patrick Hummel
NH Department of
Resources and
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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:

Tracie Sales
Watershed Planner,
NHDES

Vacant
Rivers and Lakes
Coordinator, NHDES

N.H. Rivers Management and Protection Program
N.H. Rivers Management Advisory Committee

March 22, 2016

The Honorable Norman Major, Chair
House Ways and Means Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 202
Concord, NH 03301

RE: **SB 440** *Repealing the repeal of certain fees in the shoreland protection act.*

Dear Chair Major and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its support for Senate Bill 440, repealing the repeal of certain fees in the shoreland protection act. This bill repeals a provision of Chapter 5 of the Laws of 2008 which sunsets the application fees for Shoreland permits as of July 1, 2016.

The sunset provision applies only to the permitting fees, and does not alter any other aspect of the Shoreland Program or its permitting requirements. The permit application fees allow the Shoreland Program to meet its obligations to review permit applications, investigate complaints, and enforce compliance with the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act without drawing on other funding sources. All of these activities are critical to maintaining the high quality and clean water that residents and visitors expect of New Hampshire's rivers.

The RMAC is a legislatively created body charged to work with the New Hampshire 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 440, which retains the Shoreland permit application fees. Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at (603) 466-8149 or kkimball@outdoors.org.

Sincerely,



Kenneth D. Kimball, Ph.D., Chair

cc: Sen. Jeb Bradley
Sen. David Boutin
Sen. Dan Feltes
Sen. Martha Fuller Clark
Sen. Jeff Woodburn
Rep. Patrick Abrami
Rep. Susan Almy
Rep. Chris Christensen
Rep. Suzanne Gottling
Rep. Paul Henle
Rep. David Hess
Rep. John Mullen
Rep. Harold Parker
Rep. Stephen Schmidt
Rep. Judith Spang
RMAC Members
Local River Management Advisory Committee Chairs
Thomas Burack, Commissioner, NHDES
Eugene Forbes, Director, Water Division, NHDES
Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Mgmt. Bur., NHDES
Tracie Sales, Watershed Planner, NHDES

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