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Patrick Hummel
NH Department of
Resources and
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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 30, 2016

The Honorable Jeb Bradley, Chair
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
State House, Room 100
Concord, NH 03301

RE: **HB 1332** *Adding a member to the aquatic resources compensatory mitigation site selection committee.*

Dear Chair Bradley and Members of the Committee:


The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) appreciates the opportunity to express its input on House Bill 1332 as amended by the House, relative to adding a member to the Aquatic Resources Compensatory Mitigation (ARM) site selection committee. This bill would require that the new public member of the committee have experience with stream restoration work. The amendment requires only a single candidate who is nominated by both the Northeast Region of American Rivers and the New Hampshire Rivers Council.

Having a site selection committee member experienced in stream restoration is critical to accurately evaluating the feasibility of a proposed stream restoration mitigation project and the likelihood of its long-term success. While the RMAC had initially supported a nominee selected from candidates proposed by the Geological Society of New Hampshire and The Geological Society of America - Northeastern Section, it is the understanding of the RMAC that these two groups were not able to take on the nominating role as proposed. In the bill amendment is the reasonable proposal to have the Northeast Region of American Rivers and the New Hampshire Rivers Council jointly forward a nominee for this seat; both organizations having the willingness and expertise to locate and nominate a qualified candidate. Public policy is best served when it is guided by the state of the science and this revision addresses that need.

The RMAC is a legislatively created body charged to work with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to administer RSA 483. 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.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at kkimball@outdoors.org or (603) 466-8149.

Sincerely,



Kenneth D. Kimball, Ph.D., Chair

The Honorable Jeb Bradley, Chair
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
March 30, 2016
Page 2

cc: Rep. Judith Spang
Rep. Suzanne Gottling
Rep. Lee Oxenham
Rep. Suzanne Smith
RMAC Members

Thomas Burack, Commissioner, NHDES
Eugene Forbes, Director, Water Division, NHDES
Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Mgmt. Bur., NHDES
Tracie Sales, Watershed Planner, NHDES
Local River Management Advisory Committee Chairs