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Michele L. Tremblay
Vice Chair
Conservation
Community

Anne Krantz
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Interests

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Granite State
Hydropower
Association

Fredrick J. McNeill
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Roger Noonan
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Allan G. Palmer
Business & Industry
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James W. Ryan
NH Fish & Game
Commission

Larry T. Spencer
Conservation
Commissions

Ruth Ward
Local River Management
Advisory Committees

Donald L. Ware
Public Water Suppliers

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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:

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 Gene Chandler, Chair
House Public Works and Highways Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 201
Concord, NH 03301

RE: **SB 368-FN-A** *An act making a capital appropriation for department of environmental services monitoring equipment.*

Dear Chair Chandler and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) appreciates the opportunity to express its unanimous support for Senate Bill 368, making a capital appropriation of \$260,000 for purchase of monitoring equipment for use in the Great Bay and Hampton-Seabrook Estuaries.

Five of the rivers designated into the Rivers Management and Protection Program flow into the Great Bay. Of these five, both the Lamprey River and the Exeter-Squamscott River have tidal segments designated into the Program, and therefore are hydrologically linked to the estuary. While some of the appropriation will be used to replace aging water quality monitoring equipment, the rest will be used to add water quality evaluation capability to areas that are currently unmonitored, including in the Squamscott River. Monitoring our estuaries not only provides information as to our estuaries' health, which is critical for New Hampshire's coastal economy as well as the survival of fish and wildlife, but also provides clues to the success of green infrastructure projects installed upstream, and the cleanliness of those rivers that flow into the estuary.

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.

In conclusion, the RMAC unanimously supports SB 368-FN-A, which appropriates \$260,000 for estuarine water quality monitoring equipment.

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

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Public Works and Highways Committee
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cc: Sen. David Watters
Sen. David Boutin
Sen. Martha Fuller Clark
Sen. Nancy Stiles
Rep. Adam Schrodter
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