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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

April 12, 2016

The Honorable Chris Christensen, Chair
Resources, Recreation and Development Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 305
Concord, NH 03301

RE: **SB 352** *Naming a cove in Lake Winnepesaukee as Ritson Cove, and relative to temporary seasonal docks.*

Dear Chair Christensen and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) appreciates the opportunity to express its opposition for Senate Bill 352, naming a cove in Lake Winnepesaukee as Ritson Cove, and relative to temporary seasonal docks. Specifically, the RMAC opposes the non-germane amendment to SB 352 which seeks to reduce the minimum distance from a seasonal dock to the abutting property line from 20 feet to 10 feet.

When this setback reduction and related topics were presented to your committee in March as part of House Bill 1517, the committee wisely determined that the implications of changing the temporary seasonal dock laws were not fully understood, and that the impact of the bill should be studied in more detail. Adding this unrelated amendment to SB352 would reverse the committee's earlier decision on HB 1517, bypassing the House's decision to refer the later bill to interim study. Arguments made opposing HB 1517 are equally valid for the proposed amendment to SB 352. Allowing docks to be placed within 10 feet of a neighbor's property has the potential to:

- Increase boating accidents as boats could be docked within inches of one another.
- Hamper property owners' enjoyment of their own waterfront area and reduce the safe area available for swimming.
- Increase the number of lakeshore property disputes, requiring the valuable time and resources of the NH Department of Safety Marine Patrol that could be better spent elsewhere.

The RMAC is concerned that an increased density of docks in lakes, several of which are also part of the greater network of Designated Rivers recognized under the Rivers Management and Protection Program, will negatively impact both the natural environment of these lakes and the enjoyment that residents and visitors receive from them.

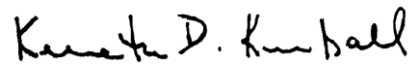
The RMAC is a legislatively created body charged to work with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to administer RSA 483. The Governor and Council appointed Committee is comprised of members from business, agriculture, hydroelectric, municipal government, water supply, conservation, 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.

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In conclusion, the RMAC opposes the non-germane amendment to SB 352 which would allow temporary seasonal docks to be placed within 10 feet of an abutting property line.

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

cc: Sen. Andrew Hosmer
Rep. Russell Dumais
Rep. Dennis Fields
Sen. Jeanie Forrester
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