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NH Fish & Game  
Department

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

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NH Department of  
Natural and Cultural  
Resources

Staff:

**Tracie Sales**  
Program Manager

**Jen Drociak**  
Watershed Coordinator

**Mariah Mitchell**  
Program Assistant

N.H. Rivers Management and Protection Program

# N.H. Rivers Management Advisory Committee

January 17, 2019

The Honorable Mary Jane Wallner, Chair  
House Finance Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 210-211  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 352** *Appropriating funds to the department of environmental services for the purpose of funding eligible wastewater projects under the state aid grant program.*

Dear Chair Wallner and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its support for House Bill 352, which will make appropriations to fund wastewater projects in New Hampshire under RSA 486 in fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

The state aid grant program for water pollution control is a critical resource for communities who need to update their water treatment infrastructure but may not be able to afford these important projects. Replacing aging infrastructure eliminates the flow of polluted water into New Hampshire's rivers and lakes and is essential not only for the health of these water bodies and the fish and wildlife that rely on them, but also for the health of residents who utilize them for drinking water and recreation. New Hampshire's clean rivers and lakes are key components to attracting tourists and maintaining a healthy state economy.

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 HB 352 because it would allow NHDES to fund eligible wastewater projects through the state aid grant program during the fiscal years of 2020 and 2021, supporting upgrades to deficient wastewater infrastructure and clean water in New Hampshire.

Should you have any questions regarding our testimony, please feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or [MLT@naturesource.net](mailto:MLT@naturesource.net).

Sincerely,



Michele L. Tremblay  
RMAC Chair

Ec: Rep. Thomas Buco  
Sen. Jeb Bradley  
Sen. Shannon Chandley  
Sen. Martha Fuller Clark  
Sen. Jon Morgan  
Sen. David Watters  
Rep. Richard Abel  
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Rep. Casey Conley  
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Rep. Christopher Herbert  
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RMAC Representatives  
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES  
Rene Pelletier, Assistant Director, Water Division, NHDES  
Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Mgmt. Bur., NHDES  
Tracie Sales, Rivers and Lakes Programs Manager, NHDES  
Local River Management Advisory Committee Chairs