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**Michele L. Tremblay**  
Chair  
Conservation  
Community

**Larry T. Spencer**  
Vice Chair  
Conservation  
Commissions

**Edna Feighner**  
Historic/Archeological  
Interests

**Christopher Hodgdon**  
NH Fish & Game  
Commission

**Mark Lombardi**  
Granite State  
Hydropower  
Association

**Frederick J. McNeill**  
Municipal Officer

**Allan G. Palmer**  
Business & Industry  
Association

**Dr. Norman Sims**  
Recreational Interests

**Ruth Ward**  
Local River Management  
Advisory Committees

**Donald L. Ware**  
Public Water Suppliers

**Vacant**  
Agricultural Community

Non-Voting Members:

**Jennifer Gilbert**  
NH Office of  
Strategic Initiatives

**Mark Hemmerlein**  
NH Department of  
Transportation

**Kayla Henderson**  
NH Department of  
Safety (Interim)

**John Magee**  
NH Fish & Game  
Department

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

**Vacant**  
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 22, 2019

The Honorable Suzanne Smith, Chair  
Resources, Recreation, and Development  
Legislative Office Building, Room 305  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 219** *Relative to membership on the Structures on Non-tidal Public Waterways Commission.*

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its opposition to House Bill 219, which will redefine a quorum for the Structures on Non-tidal Public Waterways Commission as well as remove a member seat from the commission.

The RMAC strongly opposes the redefinition of a quorum to a number that represents less than half of the members on the Structures on Non-tidal Public Waterways Commission. A better approach would be to reconsider the membership to representatives that are relevant and will commit to participating in the process. Redefining the accepted norm of a quorum is not consistent with public policy. This change would result in decisions being made by a group that does not fully represent all of the interested parties, and sets a precedent for redefining a quorum for other policy-making bodies. The RMAC has no opinion on the removal of one member of the 18 member commission.

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 opposes HB 219 because it redefines a quorum which would not be fully representative of the Structures on Non-tidal Public Waterways Commission and sets a poor precedent of allowing a small group that may not represent all affected stakeholders to make policy decisions.

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

The Honorable Suzanne Smith  
Chair, Resources, Recreation, and Development  
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Ec: Rep Andrew Renzullo  
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