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Conservation
Community

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Vice Chair
Conservation
Commissions

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Interests

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NH Fish & Game
Commission

Mark Lombardi
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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

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Jennifer Gilbert
NH Office of
Strategic Initiatives

Mark Hemmerlein
NH Department of
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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 228 *Extending the commission to study the current statutes related to management of non-tidal public waterways and the construction or placement of structures within them.*

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its support for House Bill 228, which will extend the commission established in RSA 482-A:35 to study the current statutes related to management of non-tidal public waterways and the construction or placement of structures within them.

In light of the challenges it has experienced getting underway, extending the study commission from November 30, 2019 to November 30, 2020 will allow the commission to reach a more thoroughly considered decision. Regulations allowing privately owned structures on rivers and lakes, which are public property held in trust for all, must be considered carefully to ensure that the public's rights are upheld.

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 228 because it allows for more fully considered policy recommendations.

Should you have any questions regarding our testimony, please feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or MLT@naturesource.net.

Sincerely,



Michele L. Tremblay
RMAC Chair

The Honorable Suzanne Smith
Chair, Resources, Recreation, and Development
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Ec: Rep. Suzanne Smith
Rep. Karen Ebel
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