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NH Department of
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NH Department of
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NH Fish & Game
Department

Gail McWilliam Jellie
NH Department of
Agriculture,
Markets & Food

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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

February 5, 2019

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

RE: HB 107 *An act making appropriations for costs involved in controlling invasive aquatic species.*

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) appreciates the opportunity to testify on House Bill 107, which will provide two years of funding for the purpose of managing invasive aquatic species. The RMAC supports HB 107.

The Exotic Species Program at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) uses a multi-tiered approach to combat invasive aquatic species in our state's rivers and lakes. This includes prevention, early detection, rapid response, and long-term management. The revenues derived from this bill would allow for expanded program capacity for additional prevention activities to slow the rate of invasive species spread, for expanded control projects, and for work on currently unmanaged infestations. Funds could also be earmarked for rapid-response initiatives to expedite management of new infestations once they are found.

Of the 86 New Hampshire waterbodies known to be infested with one or more invasive aquatic species, eleven are rivers. Rivers by nature promote the spread of invasive species not only to downstream stretches of the river, but also to the lakes through which they flow. It is therefore essential that resources are available when a new infestation is discovered in a river, so that the probability of it spreading is reduced.

The RMAC is a legislatively created body charged to work with 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 107 as the need and demand for funds for prevention, early detection, rapid response, and long-term management of invasive aquatic species exceeds current funding levels.

The Honorable Suzanne Smith
Chair, House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee
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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

ec: Rep. Linda Gould
Sen. John Reagan
Sen. Ruth Ward
Rep. Betty Gay
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