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Larry T. Spencer
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NH Fish & Game
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Frederick J. McNeill
Municipal Officer

Allan G. Palmer
Business & Industry
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Norman Sims
Recreational Interests

Ruth Ward
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Public Water Suppliers

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NH Office of
Strategic Initiatives

Mark Hemmerlein
NH Department of
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John Magee
NH Fish & Game
Department

Gail McWilliam Jellie
NH Department of
Agriculture,
Markets & Food

Alexx Monastiero
NH Department of
Safety

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

April 23, 2019

The Honorable David Watters, Chair
Senate Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 103
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 137 *Establishing a commission to examine the effects of wake boats in the state of New Hampshire.*

Dear Chair Watters and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill 137, which establishes a commission to examine the effects of wake boats in New Hampshire. The RMAC supports this bill but requests an amendment.

The RMAC believes that the issue of wake boats and their impact on lakes and rivers, including erosion and the spread of aquatic invasive species, should be examined. These water resources are in the public trust and are vital to the state's economic sectors that depend on them. The impact of wake boats should be studied with findings and recommendations for further actions, including legislation. Wake boats are operated on New Hampshire's lakes as well as impounded sections of rivers such as the Merrimack and Connecticut. These impounded portions of rivers function similarly to lakes and as such are subject to wave action from wake boats and susceptible to shoreline erosion. **The RMAC requests that the bill be amended to include a representative from the New Hampshire Rivers Council, appointed by that organization.**

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 137 establishing a commission to examine the effects of wake boats, but requests the bill be amended to include a representative appointed by the New Hampshire Rivers Council.

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

cc: Rep. Suzanne Smith
Sen. Martha Fuller Clark
Rep. Linda Tanner
Rep. Dan Wolf
RMAC Representatives
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES
Thomas O'Donovan, 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