

Voting Members:

**Michele L. Tremblay**  
Chair  
Conservation  
Community

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

**Christopher Hodgdon**  
NH Fish & Game  
Commission

**Mark Lombardi**  
Granite State  
Hydropower  
Association

**Frederick J. McNeill**  
Municipal Officer

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

**Norman Sims**  
Recreational Interests

**Ruth Ward**  
Local River Management  
Advisory Committees

**Donald L. Ware**  
Public Water Suppliers

**Vacant**  
Agricultural Community

**Vacant**  
Historic/Archeological  
Interests

Non-Voting Members:

**Peter Bowman**  
NH Department of  
Natural and Cultural  
Resources

**Jennifer Gilbert**  
NH Office of  
Strategic Initiatives

**Mark Hemmerlein**  
NH Department of  
Transportation

**Shawn Jasper**  
NH Department of  
Agriculture,  
Markets & Food

**John Magee**  
NH Fish & Game  
Department

**Vacant**  
NH Department of  
Safety

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 23, 2020

The Honorable Marjorie Smith, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 208  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 1673** relative to the definition of a "public body" under the right-to-know law.

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its opposition to House Bill 1673, which adds all entities receiving state funding to the definition of "public body" under the right-to-know law.

The RMAC believes that this bill will have negative implications for watershed associations and other not-for-profit organizations. Currently, should these entities receive state (or federal grant funding as pass-through monies), the grantees are subject to a high degree of accountability with progress and financial reporting. Decisions made by state agencies regarding grants to these entities provide the State of New Hampshire with transparency regarding the funding process, therefore, this bill is not necessary and would add duplicative administrative burden to these organizations.

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 1673 which would change the definition of a public body for organizations who may receive \$25,000 or more of state funding.

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

Sincerely,



Michele L. Tremblay  
RMAC Chair

cc: Rep. Carol McGuire  
Rep. Tony Lekas  
Rep. Kurt Wuelper  
RMAC Representatives  
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES  
Tom 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