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Community

Larry T. Spencer
Vice Chair
Conservation
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Christopher Hodgdon
NH Fish & Game
Commission

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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
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NH Department of
Natural and Cultural
Resources

Jennifer Gilbert
NH Office of
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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 28, 2020

The Martha Fuller Clark, Chair
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Senate House, Room 103
Concord, NH 03301

RE: SB 713 *relative to the municipal winter maintenance certification program*

Dear Chair Fuller Clark and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its support for Senate Bill 713, which allows municipalities to have their winter maintenance programs certified by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES).

NHDES has been certifying individual commercial salt applicators under their Green SnowPro program for several years. This voluntary certification program teaches winter maintenance professionals how to reduce their salt use while ensuring safe conditions on surfaces traveled by pedestrians and vehicles in winter conditions. This bill will allow certification to apply to municipal programs rather than individual people. Municipalities that participate will not only reduce the amount of salt contamination they add to our rivers and lakes, but will also save money through reduced salt purchase costs. Reducing salt contamination to our chloride-impaired surface waterbodies is critical for the protection of fish and wildlife habitat, as well as our drinking water.

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 SB 713, as the expansion of this voluntary certification program to include municipalities will have a positive effect on water resource protection in New Hampshire.

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

Sincerely,



Michele L. Tremblay
RMAC Chair

cc: Sen. Cindy Rosenwald
Sen. Chuck Morse
Sen. David Watters
Sen. Jeb Bradley
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