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Conservation
Community

Larry T. Spencer
Vice Chair
Conservation
Commissions

Victoria Bunker
Historic/Archeological
Interests

Christopher Hodgdon
NH Fish & Game
Commission

Mark Lombardi
Granite State
Hydropower
Association

Frederick J. McNeill
Municipal Officer

Allan G. Palmer
Business & Industry
Association

Ruth Ward
Local River Management
Advisory Committees

Donald L. Ware
Public Water Suppliers

Stewart Yeaton
Agricultural Community

Vacant
Recreational Interests

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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

Meghan Wells
NH Department of
Safety

Staff:

Tracie Sales
Program Manager

Vacant
Watershed Coordinator

Vacant
Program Assistant

N.H. Rivers Management and Protection Program

N.H. Rivers Management Advisory Committee

March 29, 2021

The Honorable Kevin Avar, Chair
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
State House
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 344 *An act relative to temporary docks.*

Dear Chair Avar and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its support of House Bill 344, which removes temporary seasonal docks on rivers from the permitting exemption that temporary seasonal docks on lakes are allowed.

The RMAC believes that an expedited or standard wetland permit, with the accompanying careful review that such permit applications receive by New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) staff, should be required for any dock on a river. Rivers by nature are very dynamic, and an improperly located dock could cause erosion downstream, be a navigation hazard to paddlers and other boaters, or could break loose during a flood resulting in danger to downstream boaters and infrastructure.

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 344 to require a full review of projects that propose to install temporary seasonal docks on rivers.

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 Kevin Avard
Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
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cc: Rep. Suzanne Smith
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