

Voting Members:

**Michele L. Tremblay**  
Chair  
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

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

**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

February 9, 2021

The Honorable Gary Daniels, Chair  
Senate Finance Committee  
State House  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: SB 127** *An act adopting omnibus legislation on appropriations.*

Dear Chair Daniels and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its support of Senate Bill 127, sections VII and VIII, which appropriate funds to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) for funding public water system and wastewater projects, respectively.

Regarding section VII, with many demands on public water systems such as drought and waterborne pathogens, funding to support testing, treatment, and delivery are more important than ever before. In addition, the more efficient the water plant and delivery system is, the less water that needs to be drawn from the source, whether it is from a river, a lake, or groundwater, which conserves that water for other uses or for critical needs in times of drought.

With respect to section VIII of SB 127, most wastewater systems discharge effluent into the state's rivers. These rivers provide recreation—such as fishing, swimming, and boating—irrigation, and drinking water. Upgrading wastewater systems means that effluent is cleaner and safer for the rivers and the aquatic life within them. Some plants have been able to upgrade to ultra-violet treatment of effluent instead of chlorine. While expensive initially, these changes to operations make a real difference in the quality of water and result in cost savings over time. Providing assistance to these wastewater treatment plants is essential for aquatic life, irrigation on farmlands, recreation, and 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 127 sections VII and VIII as they provide funding for projects which will conserve and protect New Hampshire's river water for drinking, recreation, irrigation, and wildlife.

The Honorable Gary Daniels  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
SB 127 February 9, 2021  
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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](mailto:MLT@naturesource.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele L. Tremblay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michele" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Tremblay".

Michele L. Tremblay  
RMAC Chair

cc: 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