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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

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

March 2, 2021

The Honorable Regina Birdsell, Chair
Senate Transportation Committee
State House, Room 103
Concord, NH 03301

RE: SB 131 *An act adopting omnibus legislation relative to vehicles, municipal water maintenance certificates, safety certificates, nondrivers's picture I.D.s, decals, and private roads.*

Dear Chair Birdsell and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its support of Senate Bill 131, part III, which allows municipalities to certify their winter maintenance programs under New Hampshire's Green SnoPro program.

The RMAC believes that providing municipalities with the option to participate in winter road maintenance programs in the state's volunteer salt applicator certification program, the Green SnoPro Program, will reduce chloride pollution in New Hampshire's rivers. High levels of chloride are well documented in many of our surface waters, and it is important that municipal salt applicators, as well as commercial ones, who participate voluntarily in the program, use road salt as efficiently as possible to minimize salt runoff to rivers while also ensuring the public's safety on roads and sidewalks.

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 SB 131 as it will reduce chloride pollution in New Hampshire's 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

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Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
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cc: Sen. David Watters
Sen. Chuck Morse
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