

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

Frederick J. McNeill
Municipal Officer

Madeleine Mineau
Granite State
Hydropower
Association

Robert M. Roseen
Recreational Interests

Ruth Ward
Local River Management
Advisory Committees

Donald L. Ware
Public Water Suppliers

Vacant
Agricultural Community

Vacant
Business & Industry
Association

Non-Voting Members:

Peter Bowman
NH Department of
Natural and Cultural
Resources

Brian Eaton
NH Department of
Safety

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

Staff:

Tracie Sales
Program Manager

Nisa Marks
Program Assistant

Vacant
Watershed Coordinator

N.H. Rivers Management and Protection Program

N.H. Rivers Management Advisory Committee

January 25, 2022

The Honorable Sharon Carson, Chair
Senate Judiciary Committee
State House, Room 100
Concord, NH 03301

RE: SB 322 *An act relative to remote meetings under the right-to-know law.*

Dear Chair Carson and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support with amendment of Senate Bill 322**, which allows members of public bodies to attend remotely when attendance is not reasonably practical. The RMAC suggests **amending the bill to delete the proposed requirement** that at least one quarter of current members be physically present at a meeting.

The RMAC supports with specified amendment this bill because

- Our experience was that remote meetings during the pandemic increased attendance and participation at public meetings;
- Current technology allows bodies to conduct meetings effectively and efficiently in a remote setting;
- Eliminating the requirement for members to state why it is not reasonably practical for them to attend a meeting in person protects member privacy; and
- It is unnecessary to require one quarter of members to be physically present, particularly when events outside the control of members such as inclement weather or personal illness may make meeting in person impractical or unsafe.

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 composed of members from business, agriculture, hydroelectric, municipal government, water supply, conservation, recreation, fish and game, and historical interests.

Should you have any questions regarding our testimony in support of SB322 with amendment to remove the requirement for a physical quorum, please feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or MLT@naturesource.net.

Sincerely,



Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

cc: Senators Perkins Kwoka, Watters, Rosenwald, Soucy, Whitley, Cavanaugh, Sherman, Daniels, and
Prentiss
Representatives Vann, Dolan, and Espitia
RMAC Representatives
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES
Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Mgmt. Bur., NHDES
Tracie Sales, Rivers and Lakes Programs Manager, NHDES
Local River Management Advisory Committee Chairs