

Voting Members:

Michele L. Tremblay
Chair
Conservation
Community

Larry T. Spencer
Vice Chair
Conservation
Commissions

Christopher Hodgdon
NH Fish & Game
Commission

Mark Lombardi
Granite State
Hydropower
Association

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
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

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 23, 2020

The Honorable Marjorie Smith, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 208
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1673 *relative to the definition of a "public body" under the right-to-know law.*

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its opposition to House Bill 1673, which adds all entities receiving state funding to the definition of "public body" under the right-to-know law.

The RMAC believes that this bill will have negative implications for watershed associations and other not-for-profit organizations. Currently, should these entities receive state (or federal grant funding as pass-through monies), the grantees are subject to a high degree of accountability with progress and financial reporting. Decisions made by state agencies regarding grants to these entities provide the State of New Hampshire with transparency regarding the funding process, therefore, this bill is not necessary and would add duplicative administrative burden to these organizations.

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 opposes HB 1673 which would change the definition of a public body for organizations who may receive \$25,000 or more of state funding.

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: Rep. Carol McGuire
Rep. Tony Lekas
Rep. Kurt Wuelper
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