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**Michele L. Tremblay**  
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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 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](mailto:MLT@naturesource.net).

Sincerely,



Michele L. Tremblay  
RMAC Chair

The Honorable Kevin Avard  
Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
HB 344 March 29, 2021  
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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