

Voting Members:

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

February 9, 2021

The Honorable Kenneth Weyler, Chair
House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 210-211
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 398 *An act making an appropriation to the department of environmental services for funding eligible wastewater projects.*

Dear Chair Weyler and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its support of House Bill 398, which appropriates funds for municipal projects designed to treat wastewater.

Failing wastewater infrastructure, including treatment plants, pumps, and pipes, can be a major cause of pollution in New Hampshire rivers. Of critical importance is separating sewer systems that combine wastewater and stormwater, and then overflow into our rivers, which often serve as drinking water sources. Funding for these projects is essential to ensuring the health of our rivers and the people who rely on them for drinking water and recreation.

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 398 as it provides funding for projects which will reduce 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

ec: Rep. Thomas Buco
Rep. Peter Leishman
Rep. Karen Umberger
Sen. David Watters
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