

Voting Members:

Michele L. Tremblay
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Conservation
Community

Larry T. Spencer
Vice Chair
Conservation
Commissions

Victoria Bunker
Historic/Archeological
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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 Avard, Chair
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
State House
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 99 *An act relative to seasonal platforms on public waters of the state.*

Dear Chair Avard and Members of the Committee:

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its support of House Bill 99, which provides rules on the placement of anchored platforms and moored floats in public waters of the state.

The RMAC believes that it is important that the seasonal platforms and large inflatable novelty floats that are being moored to our river and lake bottoms are placed where they will not become a navigation or safety hazard. We agree that governing these platforms in a manner similar to moored boats, with Marine Patrol oversight, is an appropriate method to ensure that these popular floats are safe and do not negatively impact other users' reasonable enjoyment of the river or lake.

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 HB 99 to provide rules on the placement of seasonal platforms in New Hampshire's public waters.

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

The Honorable Kevin Avard
Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
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cc: Rep. John MacDonald
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