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Madeleine Mineau Granite State Hydropower Assoc.

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Ruth Ward

Local River Management Advisory Committees

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NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food

John Magee

NH Fish & Game Department

STAFF:

Tracie Sales

Program Administrator

Nisa Marks

Program Assistant

Vacant

Watershed Coordinator

NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee

NH Rivers Management and Protection Program

April 12, 2022

The Honorable Kevin Avard, Chair Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Statehouse, Room 103 Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1066 *An act requiring the commissioner of the Department of Environmental Services to prepare a plan relative to cyanobacterial blooms in New Hampshire.*

Dear Chair Avard and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support with amendment of House Bill 1066**, which would direct the Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to create of a statewide plan to address cyanobacteria blooms in New Hampshire. The RMAC suggests **amending the bill to mandate an interactive stakeholder engagement process**, such as through the formation of an advisory committee to NHDES.

The RMAC supports this bill with amendment because

- Cyanobacteria blooms are increasing in severity, frequency, and duration;
- Blooms negatively affect river and lake ecosystems and the public's enjoyment of them; and
- A statewide strategy would increase the effectiveness of public and private responses to blooms.

The RMAC requests amendment because an interactive, stakeholder-driven process would

- benefit all parties;
- increase the likelihood of plan implementation; and
- support the collaborative development of mutually beneficial solutions to a statewide problem.

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 SB 344, feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or MLT@naturesource.net.

Sincerely,

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

ec: Representative Rosemarie Rung

Senator Suzanne Prentiss RMAC Representatives

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES

Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Management Bureau, NHDES

Tracie Sales, Rivers and Lakes Program Administrator, NHDES

Local River Management Advisory Committee Chairs