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Community

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NH Fish & Game  
Commission

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**Madeleine Mineau**  
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Recreational Interests

**Ruth Ward**  
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Natural and Cultural  
Resources

**Brian Eaton**  
NH Department of  
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NH Department of  
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**Shawn Jasper**  
NH Department of  
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**John Magee**  
NH Fish & Game  
Department

Staff:

**Tracie Sales**  
Program Manager

**Nisa Marks**  
Program Assistant

**Vacant**  
Watershed Coordinator

N.H. Rivers Management and Protection Program

# N.H. Rivers Management Advisory Committee

February 9, 2022

The Honorable Andrew Renzullo, Chair  
House Resources, Recreation, and Development Committee  
Legislative Office Building Room 305  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 1071** *An act relative to wake surfing.*

Dear Chair Renzullo and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 1071** as introduced, which would require boaters to maintain a minimum of 250' between themselves and the shoreline or other vessels while wake surfing.

The RMAC supports this bill because

- An increased buffer distance protects quiet recreation, such as by people swimming, fishing, or observing wildlife;
- Wakes cause significant shoreline erosion, which causes difficulties for homeowners with docks, beaches, or other shorefront uses;
- Operating with large wakes close to shore, where a lake or river is shallow, churns up sediment that harms aquatic life; and
- Wakes attenuate with distance, so an increased minimum buffer better protects shoreline property and aquatic life.

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 HB 1071**, please feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or [MLT@naturesource.net](mailto:MLT@naturesource.net).

Sincerely,



Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

cc: Representatives Gottling, Deshaies, J. MacDonald, Weston, Tanner, and Ebel  
RMAC Representatives

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Chair, House Resources, Recreation, and Development Committee  
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Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES  
Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Mgmt. Bur., NHDES  
Tracie Sales, Rivers and Lakes Programs Manager, NHDES  
Local River Management Advisory Committee Chairs