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Chair
Conservation
Community

Larry T. Spencer
Vice Chair
Conservation
Commissions

Victoria Bunker
Historic/Archeological
Interests

Christopher Hodgdon
NH Fish & Game
Commission

Frederick J. McNeill
Municipal Officer

Madeleine Mineau
Granite State
Hydropower
Association

Robert M. Roseen
Recreational Interests

Ruth Ward
Local River Management
Advisory Committees

Donald L. Ware
Public Water Suppliers

Vacant
Agricultural Community

Vacant
Business & Industry
Association

Non-Voting Members:

Peter Bowman
NH Department of
Natural and Cultural
Resources

Brian Eaton
NH Department of
Safety

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

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

January 20, 2022

The Honorable Edward Gordon, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 208
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1195 *An act relative to public comment periods at public meetings.*

Dear Chair Gordon and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support with amendment of House Bill 1195**, which would require a public comment period as part of any public meeting. The RMAC suggests **amending the bill** to strike “at the beginning of the agenda,” and leave to the discretion of the chair when during the meeting to provide for public comment.

The RMAC supports this bill with specified amendment because

- Public comment allows members of the public body to hear from those most directly affected by the subject of the meeting;
- The material presented during the meeting may address the public’s questions or concerns, meaning it will sometimes make sense for comment to be at the end of the agenda rather than the beginning; and
- Public bodies are diverse in their membership and missions. Chairs should have the discretion to place public comment at the time best suited for the way their meetings operate.

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 with amendment of HB 1195, please feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or MLT@naturesource.net.

Sincerely,



Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

cc: Rep.s Dolan, Ankarberg, Thomas, Maggiore, Cordelli, Potucek, Deshaies, Baldasaro, and Pauer

The Honorable Edward Gordon
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RMAC Representatives

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