

Voting Members:

Michele L. Tremblay
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 19, 2022

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

RE: HB 1620 *An act identifying part of the Merrimack River as a protected river.*

Dear Chair Renzullo and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **opposition to House Bill 1620**, which would add a section of the Merrimack River to the Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP).

The RMAC opposes this bill because

- It bypasses the local, municipal, grassroots process in RSA 483:6 to designate rivers into the RMPP;
- It is an exception to the process every other designated river has followed, which was determined by the General Court when the RMPP was envisioned by local citizens who formed the New Hampshire Rivers Campaign (now the New Hampshire Rivers Council);
- The existing river nomination process is designed to ensure that residents, businesses, and municipalities support designation;
- Municipal support is essential for the success of the RMPP's work.

The RMAC does not oppose designation of this part of the river but rather the language of the bill that would designate the described river segment without following the law, which includes an extensive public process described in statute as necessary for designation.

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 **opposition to HB 1620**, please feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or MLT@naturesource.net.

Sincerely,



Michele L. Tremblay, RMAC Chair

The Honorable Andrew Renzullo
Chair, House Resources, Recreation, and Development Committee
HB 1620, January 19, 2022
Page 2

ec: Rep. Ross Berry
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