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# NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee

## NH Rivers Management and Protection Program



February 1, 2023

The Honorable Andrew Renzullo, Chair  
House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 305-307  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 186** *An act relative to waivers for alternative sewage disposal systems.*

Dear Chair Renzullo and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **opposition to House Bill 186**, which would prohibit municipalities from denying an application to utilize an alternative sewage disposal system when a sewer connection already exists within 100 feet of the building(s) in question.

The RMAC opposes this bill because

- Alternative sewage disposal systems are often community or individual septic systems, which are often not as effective at removing nutrients and other pollutants as are municipal sewer systems;
- After filtering through a septic system and leach field, nutrients make their way into rivers and lakes, where they can fuel algal growth and cyanobacteria blooms. Passage of this bill would be expected to cause declines in water quality; and
- The ratepayer cost of existing sewer systems is based on the assumption that all eligible buildings within 100' will connect to the sewer system. The effects of granting a waiver thus are not limited to the applicant for a waiver, but rather may include other ratepayers as well.

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 of HB 186, feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or [MLT@naturesource.net](mailto:MLT@naturesource.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michele Tremblay', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

cc: Representative Stavis  
RMAC Representatives  
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES