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Program Assistant

NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee

NH Rivers Management and Protection Program



February 1, 2023

The Honorable Len Turcotte, Chair
House Municipal and County Government Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 301
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 236 *An act relative to condominium conversions under water and waste disposal laws and municipal ordinances.*

Dear Chair Turcotte and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **opposition to House Bill 236**, which allows condominium conversions to occur without going through the permitting process for subdivisions.

The RMAC opposes this bill because

- Septic system permit requirements protect water quality in ways that protect public health and the use and enjoyment of our rivers and lakes;
- Septic systems require a minimum land area in order to function. In many cases, the small lots with old, seasonal dwellings are too small to accommodate adequate septic systems; and
- Across the state, many existing seasonal camps or homes on small lots near waterbodies are being replaced with much larger homes designed for year-round occupancy. If camps are converted to condominiums without going through the permitting process and later sold as individual units, there would be no guarantee that the associated lots would support properly functioning septic systems. This would not be in the interest of the homeowners or of the public due to the negative impacts on water quality of inadequate septic systems.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Michele Tremblay', is written in black ink.

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

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