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NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee

NH Rivers Management and Protection Program



January 25, 2023

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

RE: HB 276 *An act establishing the cyanobacteria mitigation loan fund.*

Dear Chair Renzullo and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 276**, which establishes a fund to support the planning and implementation of projects to mitigate cyanobacteria blooms in drinking water or recreational waterbodies.

The RMAC supports this bill because

- Cyanobacteria blooms are increasing in severity, frequency, and duration;
- Blooms negatively affect river and lake ecosystems and the public's enjoyment of them;
- Blooms reduce the economic value associated with our rivers and lakes, making investment in their prevention an important priority;
- Addressing blooms and the nutrient pollution that causes them is costly and few funding sources already exist to prevent or mitigate blooms; and
- Cost often prohibits implementation of existing plans to reduce cyanobacteria blooms in order to protect water quality and public health.

Passage of this bill would complement the work currently being done by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and stakeholders to develop a statewide strategy to address the causes and consequences of cyanobacteria blooms.

The RMAC is a legislatively created body charged to work with 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 276, feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or MLT@naturesource.net.

Sincerely,

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

cc: Representatives Rung, N. Murphy, Darby, Coker, J. MacDonald, and Crawford
RMAC Representatives
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES