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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  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 592** *An act relative to buffers around wetlands.*

Dear Chair Renzullo and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **strong opposition to House Bill 592**, which removes the ability of municipalities to enact stricter provisions to protect wetlands than statewide standards.

The RMAC opposes this bill because

- Wetlands provide innumerable public benefits including pollution protection, water filtration, flood control, and biodiversity support;
- The monetary value of these benefits vastly exceeds the economic benefit of developments at the scale subject to the provisions of this bill;
- Local control is a fundamental part of New Hampshire's approach to government, and this bill contradicts that tradition;
- There is a long history of municipalities adopting environmental regulations that are more robust than state standards. It is part of the premise of environmental law in the United States.

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 strong opposition to HB 592, feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or [MLT@naturesource.net](mailto:MLT@naturesource.net).

Sincerely,

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

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