

VOTING MEMBERS

Michele L. Tremblay
Chair
Conservation
Community

Larry T. Spencer
Vice Chair
Conservation
Commissions

Christopher Hodgdon
NH Fish & Game
Commission

Frederick J. McNeill
Municipal Officer

Madeleine Mineau
Granite State
Hydropower Assoc.

Cory Ritz
Local River Management
Advisory Committees

Robert M. Roseen
Recreational Interests

Donald L. Ware
Public Water Suppliers

Vacant
Agricultural Community

Vacant
Business & Industry
Association

Vacant
Historic/Archeological
Interests

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Peter Bowman
NH Dept. of Natural and
Cultural Resources

Natasha Cole
NH Department of
Safety

Jennifer Gilbert
NH Dept. of Business
and Economic Affairs

Mark Hemmerlein
NH Department of
Transportation

Shawn Jasper
NH Dept. of Agriculture,
Markets & Food

John Magee
NH Fish & Game
Department

STAFF

Tracie Sales
Program Administrator

Vacant
Program Assistant

NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee

NH Rivers Management and Protection Program



April 13, 2023

The Honorable Mark McConkey, Chair
House Public Works and Highways Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 201
Concord, NH 03301

RE: SB 258 *An act relative to the disposal of highway or turnpike funded real estate.*

Dear Chair McConkey and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support with amendment of Senate Bill 258**, which would allow the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) to sell or lease property at less than fair market value when doing so has historical, social, environmental, or economic benefits.

The RMAC would like to see the bill amended to remove economic benefits from the basis for determining what is in the public interest because that wording is overly broad.

The RMAC supports the remainder of this bill because

- It preserves the existing process by which state land disposals are reviewed to determine if the sale or lease is in the public interest, and
- It would allow organizations protecting the public interest, such as municipal governments or conservation organizations, to purchase land at prices lower than market value. These organizations are often under-resourced, such that public interests are at a disadvantage when a property goes to bid.

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 support with amendment of SB 258, feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or

MLT@naturesource.net.

Sincerely,

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

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