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Tracie Sales
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Program Assistant

NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee

NH Rivers Management and Protection Program



January 17, 2024

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

RE: HB 1049 *An act relative to the prohibition on overnight mooring of houseboats.*

Dear Chair Renzullo and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **opposition to House Bill 1049**, which allows houseboats to be anchored or tied to shore without written permission from the landowner.

The RMAC opposes this bill because

- Allowing the indiscriminate mooring of houseboats runs the risk of increasing the erosion of river shorelines and disturbance of nutrients in river bottom sediment during anchoring;
- Houseboats are used on New Hampshire's larger rivers, such as the Connecticut River. New Hampshire has determined that this river warrants protection through its designation into the Rivers Management and Protection Program;
- Pin-and-stake or rebar anchors from houseboats have punctured boat hulls and injured swimmers at waterbodies in other states;
- Tying to shore can require a boater to stand on shore in order to adequately anchor their houseboat. Depending on water level, the exposed shorelines may be in private ownership, which would mean the houseboat operator could be trespassing.

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 1049, feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or MLT@naturesource.net.

Sincerely,

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

cc: Representatives Griffin, Mooney, and Leishman
RMAC Representatives
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES