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Tracie Sales
Program Administrator

Vacant
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 1103 *An act relative to revising the penalties of the shoreland protection act.*

Dear Chair Renzullo and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 1103**, which strengthens enforcement of the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (shoreland act; RSA 483-B).

The RMAC supports this bill because

- In passing the shoreland act, the General Court recognized the importance of shorelines in protecting healthy waterbodies in the public trust.
- Maintaining shoreland integrity is essential for protecting water quality. Among other issues, damage to shorelands is one of the causes of the nutrient pollution that drives toxic cyanobacteria blooms in New Hampshire;
- Requiring the Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to demonstrate harm to an entire waterbody in order to pursue enforcement of a violation is impractical, particularly on larger waterbodies; and
- Strengthening enforcement of the shoreland act was a recommendation of the Cyanobacteria Plan Advisory Committee, which included river and lake stakeholders increasingly affected by 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 1103, feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or MLT@naturesource.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michele Tremblay', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

cc: Representatives Rung, J. Macdonald, Crawford, Coker, Tanner, Ebel, and Wolf
RMAC Representatives
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES