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# NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee

## NH Rivers Management and Protection Program



January 24, 2024

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

**RE: HB 1140** *An act relative to requirements for homeowner installations of septic systems.*

Dear Chair Renzullo and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 1140**, which clarifies the provisions allowing homeowner installations of septic systems.

The RMAC supports this bill because

- Improperly designed or installed septic systems can lead to nutrient or bacteria pollution of local waterbodies;
- Homeowners remain required to meet the same design standards as other permit applicants, meaning the septic systems they install must be equally effective at treating sewage and preventing water quality issues;
- The current law creates confusion about when self-installations are allowed. Narrowing the allowance to replacement systems will eliminate the current source of confusion; and
- Reviewing permit applications by homeowners without the qualifications and experience of licensed installers is time consuming and applicants are often unsuccessful. Limiting self-installation options to replacement systems reduces the burden on staff.

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 of HB 1140, feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or [MLT@naturesource.net](mailto:MLT@naturesource.net).

Sincerely,

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

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