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NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee

NH Rivers Management and Protection Program



January 31, 2024

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

RE: HB 1143 *An act relative to amending the New Hampshire clean lakes program to include cyanobacteria blooms.*

Dear Chair Renzullo and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 1143**, which allows the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to provide remedial actions for cyanobacteria blooms under the clean lakes program.

The RMAC supports this bill because

- Cyanobacteria blooms are increasing in severity, frequency, and duration, and have been reported in rivers over the last two years;
- Blooms negatively affect river and lake ecosystems and the public's enjoyment of them;
- Blooms reduce the economic value associated with our rivers and lakes, making their prevention an important priority;
- This bill creates a mechanism for permitting certain types of management that are the best available methods for reducing the likelihood of blooms in some locations;
- This bill implements a key priority in the state's cyanobacteria plan; and
- Creation of this program was strongly supported by the diverse stakeholders who participated in the development of the state's cyanobacteria plan.

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 1143, feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or MLT@naturesource.net.

Sincerely,

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

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