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NH Dept. of Agriculture,
Markets & Food

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NH Dept. of Business
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STAFF

Tracie Sales
Program Administrator

Vacant
Program Assistant

NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee

NH Rivers Management and Protection Program



January 24, 2024

The Honorable Len Turcotte, Chair
House Municipal and County Government Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 301
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1250 *An act enabling the creation of certain village districts.*

Dear Chair Turcotte and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 1250**, which allows residents to petition their municipality to form a village district in order to protect or remediate surface water quality.

The RMAC supports this bill because

- Most waterbodies in New Hampshire span more than one municipality;
- Land management decisions in areas surrounding a waterbody directly affect water quality in that waterbody;
- Residents in different towns often experience negative water quality effects from land management decisions in adjacent municipalities, without having a say in those decisions;
- Watershed management plans, which are the primary planning tool to identify the causes of water quality issues, often contain implementation recommendations that require cooperation across town lines;
- Having a village district would make it easier for stakeholders to coordinate across municipal boundaries to protect or remediate water quality; and
- Protecting and improving water quality has a host of public benefits, including increasing the property tax base, supporting local businesses, and protecting public health.

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 1250, feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or MLT@naturesource.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Michele L. Tremblay', is written in black ink.

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

cc: Representatives Wolf, Renzullo, Vail, Rung, and Darby
RMAC Representatives
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES