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NH Fish & Game  
Commission

**Brooke Kenline-Nyman**  
Historic/Archeological  
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Municipal Officer

**Madeleine Mineau**  
Granite State  
Hydropower Assoc.

**Cory Ritz**  
Local River Management  
Advisory Committees

**Mitchell Thayer**  
Business & Industry  
Association

**Donald L. Ware**  
Public Water Suppliers

**Vacant**  
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Recreational Interests

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Cultural Resources

**Austin Brown**  
NH Department of  
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**Mark Hemmerlein**  
NH Department of  
Transportation

**John Magee**  
NH Fish & Game  
Department

**Allen Wyman**  
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 8, 2024

The Honorable Judy Aron, Chair  
House Environment and Agriculture Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 301  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 1294** *An act relative to prohibiting the state of New Hampshire from enforcing the regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency.*

Dear Chair Aron and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **opposition to House Bill 1294**, which states that the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has no authority in New Hampshire and would require the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to provide for all environmental protection in the state.

The RMAC opposes this bill because

- NHDES receives hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding from the EPA. This funding is essential to the Department successfully carrying out the charges it has received from the General Court;
- Essential public services, such as installing and maintaining public drinking water infrastructure and work to protect surface water quality, are provided through the Department's collaboration with EPA;
- Funding existing services through the state budget instead of through partnership with EPA would have a significant impact on the state budget; and
- Maintaining good water quality protects public health, increases business revenues and property values, supports tourism, and provides innumerable other public benefits. This bill would seriously undermine those efforts.

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 opposition to HB 1294, feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or [MLT@naturesource.net](mailto:MLT@naturesource.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele L. Tremblay".

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

cc: Representatives Granger, Bailey, Burnham, Gerhard, Cushman, and Belcher  
RMAC Representatives  
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES