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Community

Larry T. Spencer

Vice Chair Conservation Commissions

Christopher Hodgdon

NH Fish & Game Commission

Brooke Kenline-Nyman

Historic/Archeological Interests

Frederick J. McNeill 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

Agricultural Community

Vacant

Recreational Interests

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

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NH Dept. of Natural and **Cultural Resources**

Austin Brown

NH Department of Safety

Mark Hemmerlein

NH Department of Transportation

John Magee

NH Fish & Game Department

Allen Wyman

NH Dept. of Agriculture. Markets & Food

Vacant

NH Dept. of Business and Economic Affairs

STAFF

Tracie Sales

Program Administrator

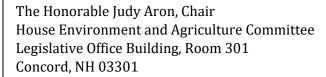
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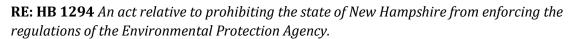
Program Assistant

NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee

NH Rivers Management and Protection Program

January 8, 2024





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.

Sincerely.

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES

Representatives Granger, Bailey, Burnham, Gerhard, Cushman, and Belcher **RMAC** Representatives

29 Hazen Drive; PO Box 95; Concord, NH 03302-0095; Tel: 603-796-2615 https://www.rmac.des.nh.gov/