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Tracie Sales
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Program Assistant

NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee

NH Rivers Management and Protection Program



January 10, 2024

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

RE: HB 1301 *An act relative to wakesurfing on public bodies of water.*

Dear Chair Renzullo and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 1301**, which enables residents to petition the Department of Safety to disallow wake surfing on a particular waterbody.

The RMAC supports this bill because

- A similar petition process exists to establish speed limits or limit the horsepower motor that can be used on a public waterbody;
- The proposed process allows for a public deliberation process that can account for local conditions on specific waterbodies;
- The bill is a local option and does not impose restrictions on a community without public input; and
- When operated too close to shore or on small or shallow waterbodies, wake boats can cause property damage or significant amounts of shoreline erosion. At present, homeowners have no recourse to seek to limit wake boats to protect the shoreline and avoid property damage.

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 1301, feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or MLT@naturesource.net.

Sincerely,

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

cc: Representatives Darby, Tanner, and Vail
RMAC Representatives
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES