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Community

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NH Fish & Game  
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Municipal Officer

**Madeleine Mineau**  
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**Cory Ritz**  
Local River Management  
Advisory Committees

**Mitchell Thayer**  
Business & Industry  
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**Vacant**  
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Recreational Interests

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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

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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 9, 2024

The Honorable Thomas Walsh, Chair  
House Transportation Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 201  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 1304** *An act relative to boat registration and boat fee decals.*

Dear Chair Walsh and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 1304**, which creates a required decal to fund programs currently supported through fees paid at the time of boat registration.

The RMAC supports this bill because

- With each boat registration, New Hampshire collects currently \$17.50 of fees that are allocated to search and rescue, public boat access, coastal pier maintenance, and the lake restoration fund;
- This current practice is out of compliance with US Coast Guard regulations and requires immediate action to keep these vital programs funded and to not jeopardize the state's federal grant for safety programs;
- The lake restoration fund is the sole source of money for the state's program to prevent and manage aquatic invasive species. This includes providing grants to non-profit organizations and municipalities to address aquatic invasive species;
- Aquatic invasive species spread rapidly if left untreated. Their dense populations hinder boat navigation, negatively affect recreational enjoyment, and harm populations of native species;
- Having a reliable, dedicated funding source that is adequate to combat aquatic invasive species is critical to the public's continued enjoyment of New Hampshire waterways, and the economic benefits that result; and
- Other states that have recently separated invasive species fees from boat registration fees in order to comply with Coast Guard regulations have lost a significant amount of funding. It is therefore important to have these fees be part of a required decal in order to maintain funding for programs directly benefiting all boaters.

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.

The Honorable Thomas Walsh  
Chair, House Transportation Committee  
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Should you have any questions regarding our testimony in support of HB 1304, feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or [MLT@naturesource.net](mailto:MLT@naturesource.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michele L. Tremblay".

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

ec: Representatives Creighton, Sellers, Baldwin, Ames, and St. Clair  
RMAC Representatives  
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES