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# NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee

## NH Rivers Management and Protection Program



March 20, 2024

The Honorable Howard Pearl, Chair  
Senate Executive Departments and Administration Committee  
Statehouse, Room 103  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 1140** *An act relative to requirements for homeowner installations of septic systems.*

Dear Chair Pearl and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 1140**, which clarifies the provisions allowing homeowner installations of septic systems. The RMAC supports the intent of the bill as introduced, but has not had an opportunity to meet to discuss the amended version.

The RMAC supports this bill because

- Improperly designed or installed septic systems can lead to nutrient or bacteria pollution of local waterbodies;
- Homeowners remain required to meet the same design standards as other permit applicants, meaning the septic systems they install must be equally effective at treating sewage and preventing water quality issues; and
- The current law creates confusion about when self-installations are allowed. Narrowing the allowance to replacement systems will eliminate the current source of confusion.

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 1140, feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or [MLT@naturesource.net](mailto:MLT@naturesource.net).

Sincerely,

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

cc: Representative McConkey  
RMAC Representatives  
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES