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NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee

NH Rivers Management and Protection Program



March 5, 2024

House Ways and Means Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 202
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1293 *An act relative to prohibiting the use of certain fertilizers using phosphorus.*

Dear Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 1293**, which regulates the sale and use of fertilizers containing phosphorus. 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

- The composition of New Hampshire's soils means that phosphorous is not the limiting nutrient in terrestrial plant growth in most parts of New Hampshire. Adding phosphorus is thus not necessary for the majority of purposes for which homeowners apply fertilizer;
- Even when applied properly, fertilizer containing phosphorus often washes off into waterbodies near the application site;
- Phosphorus pollution is one of the most widespread contaminants of New Hampshire waterbodies;
- Phosphorus pollution is the primary driver of excessive aquatic weed growth and toxic cyanobacteria blooms. Blooms threaten public health, impede recreation, decrease business revenue, and decrease property values; and
- Controlling phosphorus pollution is one of the primary strategies recommended in the state's recently published plan to control cyanobacteria blooms.

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 1293, feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or MLT@naturesource.net.

Sincerely,

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

cc: Representatives Ball, Rung, B. Boyd, Ankarberg, Read, Bordes, and Petrigno
RMAC Representatives
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES