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Tracie Sales
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Program Assistant

NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee

NH Rivers Management and Protection Program



March 6, 2024

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

RE: HB 1390 *An act relative to regulating wakeboating and wakesports.*

Dear Chair Renzullo and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 1390**, which establishes limitations on where wake sports can be conducted.

The RMAC supports this bill because

- Wakes can cause significant shoreline erosion, which causes difficulties for homeowners with docks, beaches, or other shorefront uses;
- Operating with large wakes close to shore or where a lake or river is shallow churns up sediment that harms aquatic life;
- Education efforts to establish 200' buffers have proven insufficient for protecting shorelines and private property;
- Wakes attenuate with distance, so an increased minimum buffer better protects shoreline property and aquatic life;
- Most policy recommendations in the literature are made without a sound scientific basis;
- An increased buffer distance protects quiet recreation, such as swimming, fishing, paddling, or observing wildlife; and
- The best available science on wake sports showed that waves generated during wake boating can take 400 to 600 feet to dissipate to a size where wake impacts become similar to those generated by other boating activities.

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 1390, feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or MLT@naturesource.net.

Sincerely,

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

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