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**Cory Ritz**  
Local River Management  
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**Mitchell Thayer**  
Business & Industry  
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NH Fish & Game  
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Program Assistant

# NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee

## NH Rivers Management and Protection Program



April 23, 2024

The Honorable Kevin Avard, Chair  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Statehouse, Room 103  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 1103** *An act relative to revising the penalties of the shoreland protection act.*

Dear Chair Avard and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 1103**, which strengthens enforcement of the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (shoreland act; RSA 483-B).

The RMAC supports this bill because

- In passing the shoreland act, the General Court recognized the importance of shorelines in protecting healthy waterbodies in the public trust.
- Maintaining shoreland integrity is essential for protecting water quality. Among other issues, damage to shorelands is one of the causes of the nutrient pollution that drives toxic cyanobacteria blooms in New Hampshire;
- Requiring the Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to demonstrate harm to an entire waterbody in order to pursue enforcement of a violation is impractical, particularly on larger waterbodies; and
- Strengthening enforcement of the shoreland act was a recommendation of the Cyanobacteria Plan Advisory Committee, which included river and lake stakeholders increasingly affected by cyanobacteria blooms.

The RMAC is a legislatively created body charged to work with 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 1103, feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or [MLT@naturesource.net](mailto:MLT@naturesource.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michele L. Tremblay'.

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

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