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NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee

NH Rivers Management and Protection Program



April 25, 2024

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

RE: HB 1141 *An act relative to requirements for approval to increase load on a sewage system.*

Dear Chair Avard and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 1141**, which requires approval prior to changes in building use.

The RMAC supports this bill because

- Changes in use can affect septic system loading, which in turn can affect the likelihood of system failure and potential surface water contamination;
- Current law requires approval when changing from seasonal to year-round use of a building. There are other types of use changes that affect loading, such as establishing a food service business; and
- The bill also closes a loophole in existing law for lots that are greater than five acres. Some developments, such as mobile home parks, have lots of this size while also having potentially significant septic loading.

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 1141, feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or MLT@naturesource.net.

Sincerely,

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

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