

VOTING MEMBERS

Michele L. Tremblay
Chair
Conservation
Community

Larry T. Spencer
Vice Chair
Conservation
Commissions

Christopher Hodgdon
NH Fish & Game
Commission

Brooke Kenline-Nyman
Historic/Archeological
Interests

Frederick J. McNeill
Municipal Officer

Madeleine Mineau
Granite State
Hydropower Assoc.

Cory Ritz
Local River Management
Advisory Committees

Mitchell Thayer
Business & Industry
Association

Donald L. Ware
Public Water Suppliers

Vacant
Agricultural Community

Vacant
Recreational Interests

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Peter Bowman
NH Dept. of Natural and
Cultural Resources

Austin Brown
NH Department of
Safety

Mark Hemmerlein
NH Department of
Transportation

John Magee
NH Fish & Game
Department

Heather Shank
NH Dept. of Business
and Economic Affairs

Allen Wyman
NH Dept. of Agriculture,
Markets & Food

STAFF

Tracie Sales
Program Administrator

Vacant
Program Assistant

NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee

NH Rivers Management and Protection Program



April 30, 2024

The Honorable Denise Ricciardi, Chair
Senate Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 101
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1304 *An act relative to boat registration and boat fee decals.*

Dear Chair Ricciardi and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 1304**, which creates a required decal to fund programs currently supported through fees paid at the time of boat registration.

The RMAC supports this bill because

- With each boat registration, New Hampshire collects currently \$17.50 of fees that are allocated to search and rescue, public boat access, coastal pier maintenance, and the lake restoration fund;
- This current practice is out of compliance with US Coast Guard regulations and requires immediate action to keep these vital programs funded and to not jeopardize the state's federal grant for safety programs;
- The lake restoration fund is the sole source of money for the state's program to prevent and manage aquatic invasive species. This includes providing grants to non-profit organizations and municipalities to address aquatic invasive species;
- Aquatic invasive species spread rapidly if left untreated. Their dense populations hinder boat navigation, negatively affect recreational enjoyment, and harm populations of native species;
- Having a reliable, dedicated funding source that is adequate to combat aquatic invasive species is critical to the public's continued enjoyment of New Hampshire waterways, and the economic benefits that result; and
- Other states that have recently separated invasive species fees from boat registration fees in order to comply with Coast Guard regulations have lost a significant amount of funding. It is therefore important to have these fees be part of a required decal in order to maintain funding for programs directly benefiting all boaters.

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.

The Honorable Denise Ricciardi
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
HB 1304 April 30, 2024
Page 2

Should you have any questions regarding our testimony in support of HB 1304, feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or MLT@naturesource.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michele L. Tremblay".

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

cc: Representative Creighton
Senators Fenton and Ward
RMAC Representatives
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES