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**Madeleine Mineau**  
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Hydropower Assoc.

**Cory Ritz**  
Local River Management  
Advisory Committees

**Mitchell Thayer**  
Business & Industry  
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Cultural Resources

**Austin Brown**  
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NH Fish & Game  
Department

**Heather Shank**  
NH Dept. of Business  
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**Tracie Sales**  
Program Administrator

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Program Assistant

# NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee

## NH Rivers Management and Protection Program



April 30, 2024

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

**RE: HB 1360** *An act relative to emergency authority on the public or coastal waters of the state.*

Dear Chair Avard and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 1360**, which allows the Department of Safety to temporarily establish emergency no wake zones on a waterbody due to environmental conditions.

The RMAC supports this bill because

- High water levels in rivers and lakes can lead to significant shoreline erosion. Erosion can cause water quality issues and property damage;
- Wakes from all types of boats travelling at typical speeds cause more shoreline damage during high water levels than during typical environmental conditions;
- The erosion of vegetation and soil during periods of high water levels can increase the risk of future damage to vulnerable shorelines;
- Severe flooding has become more common in New Hampshire, a trend expected to continue for the foreseeable future;
- Flood conditions can create navigational hazards, such as accidentally running into submerged docks and other structures; and
- Allowing the Department of Safety to establish temporary no wake zones in response to abnormal weather conditions provides the flexibility needed to protect public safety, private property, and the environment.

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 1360, 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', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

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