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

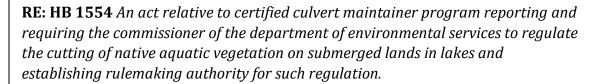
Vacant Program Assistant

NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee

NH Rivers Management and Protection Program

May 7, 2024

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



Dear Chair Avard and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 1554**, which allows the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to regulate the cutting of native vegetation in New Hampshire waterbodies.

The RMAC supports this bill because

- Native aquatic vegetation is beneficial to river and watershed ecosystems;
- Improper cutting of aquatic vegetation can result in unintended consequences, including spreading invasive weeds, harming aquatic organisms, or increasing the likelihood of cyanobacteria blooms; and
- NHDES oversight allows any cutting to be part of an appropriate strategy for the management of aquatic plants.

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 1554, feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or MLT@naturesource.net.

Sincerely,

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

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

