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NH Dept. of Business
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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

RE: HB 1554 *An act relative to certified culvert maintainer program reporting and requiring the commissioner of the department of environmental services to regulate the cutting of native aquatic vegetation on submerged lands in lakes and establishing rulemaking authority for such regulation.*

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