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Austin Brown

NH Department of Safety

Mark Hemmerlein

NH Department of Transportation

John Magee

NH Fish & Game Department

Allen Wyman

NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food

Vacant

NH Dept. of Business and Economic Affairs

STAFF

Tracie Sales

Program Administrator

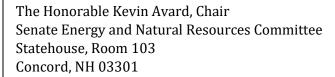
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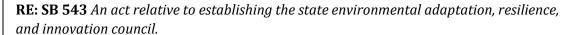
Program Assistant

NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee

NH Rivers Management and Protection Program

March 5, 2024





Dear Chair Avard and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support of Senate Bill 543**, which creates a stakeholder council to investigate ways to build resilience to environmental change in New Hampshire.

The RMAC supports this bill because

- Severe flooding, droughts, and cyanobacteria blooms are already having complex and far-reaching implications for public and private stakeholders in New Hampshire;
- These implications are expected to increase over time as events become more frequent and severe;
- Extreme flooding places significant strain on municipal budgets when roads, bridges, and other infrastructure are damaged and need repair or replacement;
- Cyanobacteria blooms decrease property values and tourism revenue;
- The council's work supports a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach to identifying and addressing these types of impacts; and
- The council's work will help increase stakeholder awareness of the implications of environmental changes happening in New Hampshire.

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 SB 543, feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or MLT@naturesource.net.

Sincerely,

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

ec: Senators Watters, Rosenwald, Soucy, Perkins Kwoka, Whitley, Fenton, Prentiss, Altschiller, and Chandley

RMAC Representatives

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES

29 Hazen Drive; PO Box 95; Concord, NH 03302-0095; Tel: <u>603-796-2615</u> <u>https://www.rmac.des.nh.gov/</u>