

Voting Members:

David Packard
Chair
NH Lakes Assn.

Shane Bradt
Scientific Community

Tiffany Grade
Conservation
Community

Janet Kidder
Planning Boards

Frank Lemay
NH BIA

Jared Maraio
NH Travel Council

Lisa Morin
State Conservation
Committee

Rex Norman
Municipal Official

Dick Smith
Fishing Interests

Bruce Temple
NH Fish & Game
Commission

Vacant
NH Association of
Realtors

Vacant
Conservation
Commissions

Vacant
Marine Trades
Association

Non-Voting Members:

Garret Graaskamp
Vice Chair
NH Fish & Game Dept.

Capt. Tim Dunleavy
NH Dept. of Safety

Eric Feldbaum
NH Dept. of Natural and
Cultural Resources

Jennifer Gilbert
NH Office of Strategic
Initiatives

Mark Hemmerlein
NH Dept. of Trans.

Shawn Jasper
NH Dept. of
Ag, Markets & Food

Staff:

Tracie Sales
Program Manager

Vacant
Watershed Coordinator

Vacant
Program Assistant

N.H. Lakes Management and Protection Program
N.H. Lakes Management Advisory Committee

March 29, 2021

The Honorable Kevin Avard, Chair
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
State House
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 115 - AN ACT relative to wake surfing.

Dear Chair Avard and Members of the Committee:

RSA 483-A established the New Hampshire Lakes Management and Protection Program and the Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) to complement and reinforce existing state and federal water quality laws. Within its responsibilities of advising the NHDES Commissioner and the department, the LMAC reviews and takes positions on legislation pertaining to New Hampshire lakes. The LMAC appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill 115.

At the meeting of the LMAC on January 11, 2021 the LMAC voted to support HB 115. This bill provides guidance to individuals who own wake boats and/or participate in the relatively new sport of wake surfing. Water skiing has a long history in New Hampshire – both as recreation and as a sport – but wake surfing or wakeboarding is a rather new addition to our lakes. As such, the Boating and Water Safety laws were inadequate to regulate the safety of the surfer and the responsibilities of the boat operator. This legislation recognizes that gap in the law and makes reasonable mandates.

The LMAC is a legislatively created body of stakeholders, in support of lakes, representing the NH Lakes Association, conservation commissions, scientific community, conservation community, planning boards, Business and Industry Association, tourism industry, state conservation committee, NH Municipal Association, fishing interests, NH Fish & Game Commission, NH Association of Realtors, Marine Trades Association, and several state agencies. Committee members are appointed by the Governor and Council or the head of the state agency and are charged with supporting the legislative intent of the Lakes Management and Protection Program.

In conclusion, the LMAC supports HB 115 for the reasons stated above. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have further questions about this letter, please feel free to contact me at (603) 867-9299 or appliedforce52@gmail.com.

Respectfully,



David Packard, Chair

The Honorable Kevin Avard
Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
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ec: Rep. Suzanne Smith
LMAC Representatives
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES
Tom O'Donovan, Director, Water Division, NHDES
Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Mgmt. Bur., NHDES
Tracie Sales, Rivers and Lakes Programs Manager, NHDES