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**David Packard**  
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NH Lakes Assn.

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**Shane Bradt**  
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**Linda Brownson**  
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**Edmund Crawford**  
Marine Trades  
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**Tiffany Grade**  
Conservation  
Community

**Janet Kidder**  
Planning Boards

**Frank Lemay**  
NH BIA

**Ernest Millette**  
NH Fish & Game  
Commission

**Rex Norman**  
Municipal Official

**Dick Smith**  
Fishing Interests

**Mary Truell**  
NH Association of  
Realtors

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NH Fish & Game Dept.

**Capt. Tim Dunleavy**  
NH Dept. of Safety

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NH Dept. of Natural and  
Cultural Resources

**Jennifer Gilbert**  
NH Office of Strategic  
Initiatives

**Mark Hemmerlein**  
NH Dept. of Trans.

**David Rousseau/  
Bob Wolff**  
NH Dept. of  
Ag, Markets & Food

Staff:

**Tracie Sales**  
Program Manager

**Jen Drociak**  
Watershed Coordinator

**Mariah Mitchell**  
Program Assistant

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

February 7, 2019

The Honorable Jeffrey Goley, Chair  
House Executive Departments and Administration Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 306  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 150** *Relative to the penalty for failure to file the financial disclosure form required under RSA 15-A.*

Dear Chair Goley and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill 150, which adds a penalty of up to \$5,000 as well as late fees for anyone who fails to file the conflict of interest form under RSA 15-A. The LMAC opposes this bill.

While some of the people required to fill out the RSA 15-A financial disclosure form are state employees, the majority are unpaid volunteers who are members of advisory councils, boards, commissions, and committees. Many of these groups, including the LMAC, have no decision-making authority and only make recommendations to state agencies or the legislature, such as this letter of testimony.

As members of the Lakes Management Advisory Committee, we are required to fill out the form. However, we should not be penalized for caring about the management of New Hampshire's lakes and wishing to assist the state government in ensuring that our lakes can be enjoyed by all citizens now and in the future simply because we forget to fill out an annual form, which cannot be submitted electronically, by a deadline. Our interest in protecting our lakes is clearly stated in any recommendation we make, and any comment we submit is LESS likely to contain bias than that of the average citizen because of the wide array of interests we represent.

HB 150 proposes to penalize volunteerism in New Hampshire. The value of the hours donated to benefit the state by volunteers in the Lakes Management and Protection Program (RSA 483-A) and its sister program, the Rivers Management and Protection Program (RSA 483), is estimated at \$1.4 million between 1988 and 2016. Many volunteers in these programs have promised to resign should this legislation pass, as they cannot afford the threat of these fines. This will leave all of the valuable outreach, education, oversight, clean up, and other activities that these groups do on behalf of the state undone.

The LMAC is a legislatively created body charged to work with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to administer RSA 483-A, the Lakes Management and Protection Program. The Governor and Council appointed Committee

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is comprised of 19 members representing academia, business, conservation organizations, lake associations, tourism, fish and game commission, marine trades, realtors, municipal government as well as several state agencies. Among its other responsibilities, the LMAC reviews legislation relevant to the Program and the state's lakes and ponds, and advises the NHDES Commissioner on the merits of such legislation.

In conclusion, the LMAC feels that HB 150 is inexpedient to legislate because it penalizes unpaid volunteers with no authority to make decisions and will result the resignation of many volunteers in the Lakes and Rivers Management and Protection Programs.

Should you have further questions about this testimony, please feel free to contact me at (603) 867-9299 or [appliedforce52@gmail.com](mailto:appliedforce52@gmail.com).

Sincerely,



David Packard  
Chair

ec: Rep. Werner Horn  
Rep. James Spillane  
LMAC Representatives  
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES  
Rene Pelletier, Assistant Director, Water Division, NHDES  
Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Mgmt. Bur., NHDES  
Tracie Sales, Rivers and Lakes Programs Manager, NHDES