

N.H. Lakes Management Advisory Committee

N.H. Lakes Management and Protection Program
29 Hazen Drive; PO Box 95; Concord, NH 03302-0095; Tel: [603-271-1522](tel:603-271-1522)
<https://www.des.nh.gov/water/rivers-and-lakes/lakes-management-and-protection>

April 12, 2022

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

RE: HB 1528 - AN ACT establishing a public boat access donation program for operators of non-motorized boats.

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's lakes. The LMAC appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill 1528.

The LMAC **supports HB 1528**. This bill helps make the revenue stream for the Fish and Game Department reflect the diversity of users who benefit from public access sites and services across the state. Currently, public access infrastructure is paid for by motorized boat registration fees and matching federal funds generated by an excise tax on motorboat fuel and fishing and hunting equipment. Yet many water-related search and rescue operations are for non-motorized users, and 43% of Fish and Game boat ramps are for non-motorized users only. The voluntary donation program proposed under this bill recognizes the diversity of users who enjoy access to our public lakes and rivers and will help ensure that access opportunities across the state are maintained.

In addition, lake recreation is an important source of tourism and economic activity for the state, with Lake Winnepesaukee alone contributing \$17 billion to New Hampshire's economy. The public access program has struggled to keep up with increasing demand for public access. The proposed donation program for nonmotorized users would help Fish and Game respond to increasing demand.

The LMAC is a legislatively created body of lake stakeholders, representing the NH Lakes Association, conservation commissions, the 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

LMAC VOTING MEMBERS: David Packard, Chairman, NH LAKES • Shane Bradt, Scientific Community • Ryan Cardella, Marine Trades Association • Tiffany Grade, Conservation Community • Sara Holland, NH Association of Realtors • Janet Kidder, Planning Boards • Frank Lemay, NH Business & Industry Assoc. • Jared Maraio, NH Travel Council • Lisa Morin, State Conservation Committee • Dick Smith, Fishing Interests • Meredith Smith, Municipal Official • Bruce Temple, NH Fish & Game Commission • Steve Wingate, Conservation Commissions

LMAC NON-VOTING MEMBERS: Garret Graaskamp, Vice Chairman, NH Fish & Game Dept. • Capt. Tim Dunleavy, NH Dept. of Safety • Eric Feldbaum, NH Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources • Jennifer Gilbert, NH Dept. of Business and Economic Affairs • Mark Hemmerlein, NH Dept. of Trans. • Shawn Jasper, NH Dept. of Ag, Markets & Food

The Honorable Kevin Avard
Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
HB 1528, April 12, 2022
Page 2

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 1528 for the reasons stated above. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me at [\(603\) 867-9299](tel:6038679299) or appliedforce52@gmail.com.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David W. Packard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

David Packard, Chairman

ec: Representatives Goley, Harvey, and Dontonville, and Senator Cavanaugh
LMAC Representatives
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES
Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Management Bureau, NHDES
Tracie Sales, Rivers and Lakes Programs Administrator, NHDES