

Voting Members:

David Packard
Chair
NH Lakes Assn.

Bruce Allen
Conservation
Commissions

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

Mary Truell
NH Association of
Realtors

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

January 13, 2021

The Honorable Edward Gordon, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 208
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 216 - AN ACT relative to public notice of and access to meetings under the right to know law.

Dear Chair Gordon 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 216.

At the meeting of the LMAC on January 11, 2021, the LMAC voted to support HB 216. This bill provides guidance for government meetings – such as those held by the LMAC – to allow public participation under circumstances such as we have all experienced during this pandemic. It removes the requirement for a physical meeting location and creates the ability for the LMAC to conduct its business in a virtual manner, and allowing for a roll call vote. These are all reasonable and practical changes to the existing law.

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 216 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

ec: Rep. Lucy Weber
Rep. Marjorie Porter
Rep. Mary Beth Walz

The Honorable Edward Gordon
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
HB 216 January 13, 2021
Page 2

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