

Voting Members:

**David Packard**  
Chair  
NH Lakes Assn.

**Bruce Allen**  
Conservation  
Commissions

**Mark Borrin**  
Tourism Industry

**Shane Bradt**  
Scientific Community

**Linda Brownson**  
State Conservation  
Committee

**Edmund Crawford**  
Marine Trades  
Association

**Tiffany Grade**  
Conservation  
Community

**Janet Kidder**  
Planning Boards

**Frank Lemay**  
NH BIA

**Rex Norman**  
Municipal Official

**Dick Smith**  
Fishing Interests

**Mary Truell**  
NH Association of  
Realtors

**Vacant**  
NH Fish & Game  
Commission

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.

**David Rousseau**  
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**

April 11, 2019

The Honorable Martha Fuller Clark, Chair  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 101  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 475** *Establishing a shoreland septic system study commission.*

Dear Chair Fuller Clark and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) is writing to express its support for House Bill 475, which will establish a study commission to examine the impact of failing private shoreland septic systems on the state's rivers and lakes.

Septic systems installed without state approval, and those constructed prior to 1967 when inspections and state approval were first required, inevitably include septic systems that inadequately treat wastewater. As such, these inadequate or "failing" septic systems can leach phosphorous and other chemicals, leading to increased *E.coli* bacteria and cyanobacteria blooms, threatening the water quality of New Hampshire's lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams, and impacting recreation and the economic value of these waterbodies. On many lakes and ponds, inadequate waste water treatment is thought to be a leading contributor to the high bacteria levels and cyanobacteria blooms that result in the closure of our state's beaches and threaten the health of swimmers, especially children, pets, and wildlife.

There are several difficult issues with detecting and accomplishing upgrades of septic systems on private properties which have prevented the problem from being solved statewide. As such, the LMAC agrees that these issues need to be examined via a comprehensive study to determine the most effective method for identifying potential inadequate septic systems and to determine what approach or approaches can be taken to remedy these inadequacies.

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 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.

The Honorable Martha Fuller Clark  
Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
HB 475 April 11, 2019  
Page 2

In conclusion, the LMAC supports HB 475 relative to establishing a shoreland septic system study commission.

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. Judith Spang  
Sen. Jeb Bradley  
Sen. Dan Feltes  
Sen. Martha Fuller Clark  
Sen. David Watters  
Rep. Dennis Malloy  
Rep. Lee Oxenham  
LMAC Representatives  
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES  
Thomas O'Donovan, Director, Water Division, NHDES  
Ted Diers, Administrator, Watershed Mgmt. Bur., NHDES  
Tracie Sales, Rivers and Lakes Programs Manager, NHDES