

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

**Ernest Millette**  
NH Fish & Game  
Commission

**Rex Norman**  
Municipal Official

**Dick Smith**  
Fishing Interests

**Mary Truell**  
NH Association of  
Realtors

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/  
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 6, 2019

The Honorable Suzanne Smith, Chair  
House Resources, Recreation, and Development  
Legislative Office Building, Room 305  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 542** *Establishing a grant program to support municipalities in updating their wetlands regulations.*

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill 542, which establishes a grant program to support municipalities in updating their wetlands regulations. The LMAC supports this bill.

This fund will be administered by the Office of Strategic Initiatives in cooperation with the regional planning commissions and will be used to assist municipalities in updating or adopting wetlands regulations. The LMAC supports this bill because some municipalities have no local wetlands regulations while other municipalities have local wetlands regulations that need updating. This grant program would allow the Office of Strategic Initiatives to work with municipalities that have identified critical deficiencies in their wetlands protection ordinances, resulting in a heightened risk of wetland degradation. Wetlands serve a fundamental role in providing clean water as well as essential, unique fish and wildlife habitat that benefits all of New Hampshire's surface waters, including its lakes.

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.

In conclusion, the LMAC supports HB 543 because it would provide funds to allow the Office of Strategic Initiatives to assist municipalities in adopting or updating local wetland regulations.

The Honorable Suzanne Smith  
Chair, Resources, Recreation, and Development Committee  
HB 542 February 6, 2019  
Page 2

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,

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  
Chair

cc: Rep. Chuck Grasse  
Rep. Ivy Vann  
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