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Cultural Resources

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NH Dept. of Trans.

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

February 5, 2019

The Honorable Martha Fuller Clark, Chair
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
State House, Room 103
Concord, NH 03301

RE: SB 254 *Appropriating funds to the department of environmental services for the purpose of funding eligible wastewater projects under the state aid grant program.*

Dear Chair Fuller Clark and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 254, which will make appropriations to fund wastewater projects in New Hampshire under RSA 486 in fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

The state aid grant program for water pollution control is a critical resource for communities who need to update their water treatment infrastructure but may not be able to afford these important projects. Replacing aging infrastructure invariably improves the quality of the water entering New Hampshire's lakes and rivers and is essential not only for the health of these water bodies and the fish and wildlife that rely on them, but also for the health of residents who utilize them for drinking water and recreation. New Hampshire's clean lakes and rivers are key components to attracting tourists and maintaining a vibrant state economy.

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 SB 254 because it would allow NHDES to fund eligible wastewater projects through the state aid grant program during the fiscal years of 2020 and 2021, supporting upgrades to deficient wastewater infrastructure and clean water in New Hampshire.

The Honorable Martha Fuller Clark
Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
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Should you have further questions about this testimony, please feel free to contact me at (603) 867-9299 or appliedforce52@gmail.com.

Sincerely,



David Packard
Chair

cc: Sen. Jeb Bradley
Rep. Thomas Buco
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