

N.H. Lakes Management Advisory Committee

[N.H. Lakes Management and Protection Program](https://www.lmac.des.nh.gov/)
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<https://www.lmac.des.nh.gov/>

January 16, 2024

The Honorable Thomas Walsh, Chair
House Transportation Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 203
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1158 - AN ACT relative to establishing an exception to vessel registration.

Dear Chair Walsh and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) is writing to express its **opposition to House Bill 1158**, which will exempt from vessel registration vessels under 15 feet in length that sell food and drink but earn less than \$5,000 per annum.

The current vessel registration process applies equitably to all types of vessels. Through registration, all vessels pay for benefits shared across the boating community, including public access sites (some of which may be used by customers of these vessels), aquatic invasive species prevention and management efforts, and search and rescue operations. Exempting one type of vessel establishes a dangerous precedent that would undermine the integrity of the registration process.

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.

In conclusion, the LMAC opposes HB 1158 for the reasons stated above. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Should you have questions, please feel free to contact me at (603) 569-3114 or stevewingate@roadrunner.com.

Respectfully,



Steve Wingate, LMAC Legislation Subcommittee

ec: Representatives Lynn and Kuttub
LMAC Representatives
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES

LMAC VOTING MEMBERS: Andrea LaMoreaux, Chair NH LAKES • Ryan Cardella, Marine Trades Association • Tiffany Grade, Conservation Community • Janet Kidder, Planning Boards • Frank Lemay, NH Business & Industry Assoc. • Joanie McIntire, NH Association of Realtors • Amanda McQuaid, Scientific Community • Lisa Morin, State Conservation Committee • Susan Price, NH Fish & Game Commission • Dick Smith, Fishing Interests • Steve Wingate, Conservation Commissions • Vacant, Municipal Official • Vacant, NH Travel Council

LMAC 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 • Mark Hemmerlein, NH Dept. of Trans. • Allen Wyman, NH Dept. of Ag, Markets & Food • Vacant, NH Dept. of Business and Economic Affairs