

# 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 10, 2024

The Honorable Andrew Renzullo, Chair  
House Resources, Recreation, and Development Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 305  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 1301 - AN ACT relative to wakesurfing on public bodies of water.**

Dear Chair Renzullo and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 1301**, which would allow residents to petition the Department of Safety to limit wake surfing on a waterbody.

The same petition process proposed in this bill for wake surfing is already used to establish waterbody-specific speed limits and no-wake zones. The petition process has been an effective mechanism for allowing the state to make waterbody-specific management decisions in ways that reflect local conditions and balance conflicting public uses. Wakes damage shorelines, cause challenges for lakefront land owners and churn up sediment that adversely affects aquatic life. Allowing residents to express a preference to not have wake surfing on certain areas of a waterbody preserves opportunities for quiet enjoyment of lakes, such as by users that are swimming, fishing, or observing wildlife. It also provides a way for landowners to seek to protect their property in cases where wakes are eroding shorelines. The petition process allows the state to make waterbody-specific decisions in ways that reflect the local interests of those who live on and enjoy New Hampshire lakes. It also reflects the fact that residents are often the people who are most familiar with a specific waterbody, and often know about areas that are ecological sensitive, pose safety issues, or have navigational hazards.

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 supports HB 1301 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 [stewingate@roadrunner.com](mailto:stewingate@roadrunner.com).

Respectfully,

/s/

Steve Wingate, LMAC Legislation Subcommittee

ec: Representatives Darby, Tanner, and Vail  
LMAC Representatives  
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES

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**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