

N.H. Lakes Management Advisory Committee

[N.H. Lakes Management and Protection Program](https://www.lmac.des.nh.gov/)
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April 9, 2024

The Honorable Kevin Avard, Chair
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Statehouse, Room 103
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1314 - AN ACT relative to the comprehensive state development plan.

Dear Chair Avard and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 1314**, which will add drinking water, surface water, wildlife habitat, and other environmental considerations to the scope of the state development plan.

Although the most recent state development plan is from 2000, the LMAC sees an updated plan as a useful tool to guide a balanced future for the state's development. Adequate clean drinking water is essential to support the state's population. A 2017 valuation of activities in New Hampshire's freshwaters by University of New Hampshire researchers indicated recreational fishing spending totaled \$215 million per year, visitations to state parks amounted to \$40 million in combined revenue, and that non-NH registered boater visits in New Hampshire contribute \$100 million dollars to the economy. Natural resources including clean water and abundant wildlife are among the top reasons people move to or visit New Hampshire. Water resources and wildlife are not included in the statute's existing language about trends in land protection and open space, but are important components of the economy and future development.

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 1314 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

cc: Senator Watters
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