

# 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/>

May 7, 2024

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

**RE: HB 1293 - AN ACT relative to relative to prohibiting the use of certain fertilizers using phosphorus.**

Dear Chair Avard and Members of the Committee:

The Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 1293**, which will limit the use of phosphorus fertilizers on turf.

Excess phosphorus due to land uses in the watersheds around lakes are a primary driver of cyanobacteria blooms. Blooms are increasing in frequency in New Hampshire and can threaten public health, impede recreation, and lower tourism and business revenues, and adversely affect property values. Developing and implementing policies and practices to reduce nutrient inputs into lakes was one of the four strategies identified in the state's cyanobacteria plan, developed by NHDES at the instigation of the legislature and with input from a 17-member advisory committee.

When the wrong type of fertilizer is applied, or when appropriate fertilizers are applied improperly, the fertilizer and/or the nutrients in it can runoff into nearby waterbodies, where it becomes available to fuel cyanobacteria and aquatic weed growth. The education of homeowners and landscapers, as facilitated by this bill, is important for maintaining the public's future enjoyment of our lakes.

Phosphorus fertilizer is usually not needed for healthy lawn growth in New Hampshire due to the composition of soils in our state. In addition, many homeowners misapply it in ways that make it more likely that the fertilizer will runoff into nearby waterbodies. This bill's provisions to prohibit application before or during a rainstorm, within 25' of a storm drain, or on impervious surfaces all address current examples of misapplication. The in-store labelling requirements in this bill should help reduce misuse and therefore protect water quality.

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

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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. • Heather Shank, NH Dept. of Business and Economic Affairs • Allen Wyman, NH Dept. of Ag, Markets & Food

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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 1293 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](mailto:stevewingate@roadrunner.com).

Respectfully,



Steve Wingate, LMAC Legislation Subcommittee

cc: Representative Ball  
LMAC Representatives  
Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES