



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

January 13, 2011

Honorable Representative Andrew Renzullo, Chairman
Resources, Recreation, and Development
Room 305
Legislative Office Building
Concord, NH 03301

Re: HB 44, designating segments of the Oyster River as protected under the rivers management and protection program.

Dear Chairman Renzullo:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 44, which would designate the Oyster River as a protected river pursuant to the Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP) from the headwaters at Hall Road in Barrington to the Mill Pond dam in Durham. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this legislation.

The proposed designation of the Oyster River as a protected river under the RMPP is consistent with the conclusions from our review of the Oyster River nomination in 2010. Our conclusions were summarized in my letter to the House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee dated November 8, 2010 (copy attached) in which I stated that "*designation of the Oyster River would be consistent with the purposes of RSA 483, and I am strongly recommending its inclusion in the RMPP.*" In developing this recommendation, DES considered the nomination package submitted by the Oyster River Watershed Association, public comment, and the recommendation for RMPP designation by the Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC), as submitted to me by letter dated September 30, 2010 (copy attached), from Dr. Kenneth Kimball, RMAC Chair. Our detailed evaluation is presented in the attached report, The Oyster River: A Report to the General Court, dated January 2011.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Steve Couture, Rivers Coordinator at 271-8801, or me at 271-2958.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

Enclosures

TSB/smc

cc: Senator Amanda Merrill
Representative L. Mike Kappler
Representative Janet Wall
Representative Nada Kaen
Representative Sam Catalado
Representative Carol Vita
Eric Fiegenbaum, Oyster River Watershed Association (via electronic mail)
RMAC Members (via electronic mail)

DES Web site: www.des.nh.gov

P.O. Box 95, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

Telephone: (603) 271-2457 • Fax: (603) 271-7894 • TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964