



The State of New Hampshire  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



**Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner**

February 24, 2011

The Honorable Bob Odell, Chairman  
 Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
 Legislative Office Building, Room 102  
 Concord, NH 03301

RE: SB 47 - An Act relative to extending the commission to study water infrastructure sustainability funding.

Dear Chairman Odell:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in support of SB 47, which would extend the Commission to Study Water Infrastructure Sustainability Funding (Commission) that was initially formed in 2009 through the enactment of SB 60. The Department of Environmental Services supports this bill because it will allow the commission to complete its work. Specifically, SB 47 extends the Commission for one year so that critical research and analysis that is now underway can be completed. This information will allow the Commission to finalize and prioritize recommendations on how New Hampshire might ensure adequate funding to sustain critical water infrastructure, including public drinking water systems, public wastewater and stormwater systems, and publicly owned dams.

The following chart provides an estimate of the anticipated water infrastructure funding needs over the next decade:

<b>Water Infrastructure Category</b>	<b>Estimated 10-Year Need</b>
Public Wastewater Systems (not including all expected nutrient removal projects)	\$1,300,000,000
Public Drinking Water Systems	\$800,000,000
Public Stormwater Systems	(preliminary estimate) \$98,000,000
State Owned Dams	\$18,000,000
Municipally Owned Dams	\$40,000,000
<b>Total Water Infrastructure Needs</b>	<b>\$2,112,000,000</b>

These needs are a result of aging and decaying infrastructure, regulatory changes, and growth.

There is general recognition of the importance of water infrastructure to the economy and the health and welfare of NH Citizens. The Commission's preliminary findings underscore that keeping this infrastructure functioning benefits all, and can not be achieved in an affordable manner through user rates alone. Accordingly, the Commission is studying a variety of mechanisms, including education, long-term demand reduction, as well as possibly sustainable funding sources now being researched at the University of New Hampshire. When this work is completed, the Commission will be in a position to make sound recommendations that will serve as a framework for development of a long-term strategy for New Hampshire's water infrastructure that helps address the needs in an affordable manner for New Hampshire's citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill. Please feel free to call Sarah Pillsbury at 271-1168, or me at 271-2958, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,  
  
 Thomas S. Burack  
 Commissioner

cc: Senators Gallus, Kelly, Odell, Merrill, Barnes  
 Representatives Umberger, St. Cyr, Spang, Chandler, Kappler