



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

*Celebrating 25 Years of Protecting
New Hampshire's Environment*



April 9, 2012

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

RE: SB 399 - Relative to the maximum permit application fee for certain municipal dredging projects.

Dear Chairman Renzullo:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 399 that would establish a maximum wetlands application fee of \$10,000 for municipal or state agency dredging projects whose primary purpose is to restore or reclaim lakes or ponds. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports SB 399 as proposed.

There is currently a statutory cap of \$10,000 on wetlands application fees for New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT) projects [ref. RSA 482-A:3,X.(a)] and tidal dredging projects to improve navigation for a municipality [ref. RSA-482-A:3,X.(b)]. As proposed, SB 399 is consistent with these existing sections of statute and is, therefore, acceptable to DES. In addition, the fiscal impact, while indeterminable, is expected to be minor because our experience has been that very few large municipal or state agency dredging projects occur in New Hampshire, typically fewer than one per year.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please contact Mr. Rene Pelletier at 271-2951, or me at 271-2958, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

cc: Senator Bragdon
Representative Belvin
Representative Willette
Representative Hansen

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