



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner



February 7, 2013

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

RE: HB 527, repealing the exotic aquatic weeds and species committee.

Dear Chairman Chandley:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 527, an act to repeal statutory authorization of the Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species (EAWS) Committee. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) opposes this bill. As described below, since its inception in 2004, the EAWS Committee has had a positive role in the control of exotic aquatic species in New Hampshire.

The EAWS Committee was established by legislation in 2004. EAWS Committee membership includes a diverse mix of legislators and members of the public who are interested in the management of exotic aquatic species in New Hampshire. The Committee was originally charged with studying the spread of exotic aquatic weeds and species in the waters of New Hampshire as well as ways to provide public education, exotic species control and management. Over time, EAWS Committee roles have included: 1) the evaluation of proposed legislation, 2) conducting public forums to enable New Hampshire citizens to voice concerns and present constructive ideas for the control and prevention of exotic species; 3) development and implementation of a campaign to raise funds for exotic aquatic plant control in the Lakes Region, and; 4) providing a platform for stakeholder discussions relative to invasive species threats and impacts.

The EAWS Committee has been a valued partner with DES in the mission to protect and restore the health of New Hampshire's aquatic resources from threats posed by exotic aquatic plants.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill. Please contact Amy Smagula, Exotic Species Program Coordinator, at 271-2248 or amy.smagula@des.nh.gov, or me at 271-2958 or thomas.burack@des.nh.gov if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Representatives Kappler, Itse, Hansen, Baldasaro, Pitre, and Weyler
Senator Reagan