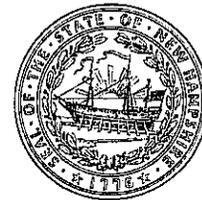




The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

February 9, 2010

The Honorable Judith T. Spang
House Resources, Recreation and Development Commission
Legislative Office Building, Room 305
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: HB 1153, an act relative to membership of the commission to study water infrastructure sustainability funding

Dear Chairman Spang:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 1153 which would add a representative of Granite State Rural Water Association (GSRWA) to the existing Commission to Study Water Infrastructure Sustainability Funding (Infrastructure Sustainability Commission) that was established in 2009. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this bill.

In 2009, in recognition of the importance of water to New Hampshire's economic well being and quality of life, the Infrastructure Sustainability Commission was established by enactment of SB 60 into law to study the long term needs and methods to support New Hampshire's programs and environmental infrastructure that serve to protect, manage, and maintain significant surface and ground water resources. This commission includes a variety of diverse stakeholders with interests in water related infrastructure and programs and is scheduled to conclude its work report findings to the Legislature in November 2010.

The GSRWA is a professional organization with members who are operators of small rural water and wastewater systems from across New Hampshire. GSRWA would offer the unique and important perspective of these small rural systems as the Infrastructure Sustainability Commission evaluates needs and possible funding solutions. GSRWA representatives have attended many of the Commission meetings as observers and have already contributed to the Commission's discussions on infrastructure needs. Membership on the Infrastructure Sustainability Commission would formalize and elevate the GSRWA role as the Commission moves forward to complete its work this year.

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

Very truly yours,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

Enclosure

cc: Senator Martha Fuller Clark
Representatives Umberger and Buco