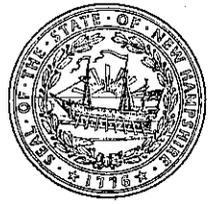




The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

April 6, 2010

The Honorable Judith T. Spang, Chairman
House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 305
Concord, NH 03301

RE: SB 442, relative to the grant program to administer exotic aquatic plant prevention

Dear Chairman Spang:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 442, which would amend RSA 487:26 to increase the portion of funds allocated for milfoil and other exotic plant prevention grants from "up to 2/3" to "a minimum of 3/4" of the moneys distributed from the fund. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this bill.

The work and accomplishments of the Exotic Aquatic Weed programs are well documented in the Report of the Exotic Species Program 2006-2008. New Hampshire is a national leader in control of exotic aquatic species, thanks to the legislation that has created and funded the programs, and to the excellent work of DES staff.

DES supports the new formula that would increase the allocation of funds for exotic aquatic plant prevention from "up to 2/3" to a "minimum of 3/4" of the funds distributed, with the remainder allocated for research. Our experience administering the grant program over the past several years indicates that a greater proportion of the funds should be allocated to the prevention grants. Specifically, the Lake Host program, and a new project to track Didymo infestations would benefit from additional grant funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill. Please call Jody Connor at 271-3414 or me at 271-2958, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Very truly yours,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Senator. Merrill
Representative Beaulieu
Representative DiFruscia
Representative Drisko

Senator Reynolds
Representative French
Representative Millham