



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner
April 7, 2011

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

Re: HB149, designating segments of the Lamprey, North Branch, Pawtuckaway, North, Little, and Piscassic Rivers as protected rivers

Dear Senator Odell:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 149 as amended, which would designate segments of the Lamprey, North Branch, Pawtuckaway, North, Little, and Piscassic Rivers as protected rivers pursuant to the Rivers Management and Protection Program, RSA 483 (RMPP). The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this legislation.

The proposed designation of segments of the Lamprey, North Branch, Pawtuckaway, North, Little, and Piscassic Rivers protected river under the RMPP is consistent with the conclusions from our review of the combined nomination document submitted to DES in June 2010. Our conclusions are summarized in my report to the General Court dated January, 2011 (copy attached) which recommends that *"The General Court should adopt legislation that designates the Lamprey, North Branch, North, Little, Pawtuckaway, and Piscassic Rivers for inclusion in the Rivers Management and Protection Program and designates the Lamprey, North Branch, North, Little, Pawtuckaway, and Piscassic Rivers .."* In developing this recommendation, DES considered: the nomination package submitted jointly by the Lamprey River Nomination Committee, the Lamprey River Watershed Association, and the Lamprey River Advisory Committee; public comment; and the recommendation for RMPP designation by the Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) as submitted to me by letter dated September 30, 2010 (copy attached), from Dr. Kenneth Kimball, RMAC Chair. Our detailed evaluation is presented in the attached report, The Lamprey, North Branch, North, Little, Pawtuckaway and Piscassic Rivers: A Report to the General Court, dated January, 2011.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Steve Couture, Rivers Coordinator at 271-8801, or me at 271-2958.

Sincerely,


Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

Enclosures

TSB/pmc

cc: Senator Amanda Merrill
Representative Janet Wall
Representative Timothy Comerford
RMAC Members (via electronic mail)

Representative L. Mike Kappler
Representative Frank Case
Representative Jason Antosz
LAC Chairs (via electronic mail)