



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

February 10, 2011

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

Re: HB 555, designating segments of the Lower Exeter/Squamscott River as protected under the rivers management and protection program.

Dear Chairman Renzullo:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 555, which would designate the Lower Exeter/Squamscott River as a protected river pursuant to the Rivers Management and Protection Program, RSA 483 (RMPP). The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this legislation.

The proposed designation of the Lower Exeter/Squamscott River as a protected river under the RMPP is consistent with the conclusions from our review of the Lower Exeter/Squamscott River nomination in 2010. Our conclusions were summarized in my letter to the House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee dated November 9, 2010 (copy attached) in which I stated that "*designation of the Lower Exeter/Squamscott River would be consistent with the purposes of RSA 483, and I am strongly recommending its inclusion in the RMPP.*" In developing this recommendation, DES considered the nomination package submitted by the Exeter River Local 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 Lower Exeter/Squamscott River: A Report to the General Court, dated February 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/smc

CC: Representative Kappler
Representative Sanders
Representative Itse
Representative Comerford
Barbara Skuly, Chair, Ashuelot River LAC (via email)
Rick Healey, Chair, Cocheco River LAC (via email)
Theresa Darling, Business Manager, CRJC (via email)
Don Clement, Chair, Exeter River LAC (via email)
Sarah Callaghan, Chair, Lamprey River LAC (via email)
Max Stamp, Chair, Pemigewasset River LAC (via email)
George May, Chair, Souhegan River LAC (via email)
Michele L. Tremblay, Chair, Upper Merrimack LAC (via email)
Representative Schlachman
Senator Stiles
Representative Antosz
RMAC Members (via electronic mail)
Charlie Ryan, Chair, Ammonoosuc River LAC (via email)
Jenny Polcari, Co-Chair, Cold River LAC (via email)
Michelle Hamm, Chair, Contoocook River LAC (via email)
Liz Evans, Chair, Isinglass River LAC (via email)
Bob Robbins, Chair, Lower Merrimack River LAC (via email)
Dick Ludders, Chair, Piscataquog River LAC (via email)
Robert Parrish, Chair, Swift River LAC (via email)

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