



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Service

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

*Celebrating 25 Years of Protecting
New Hampshire's Environment*



January 17, 2012

The Honorable Gene Chandler, Chairman
Public Works and Highways Committee
Room 201, Legislative Office Building
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1314 - An Act establishing a committee to study the maintenance of water and sewer infrastructure.

Dear Chairman Chandler:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on HB 1314 which would establish a committee to study the maintenance of water and sewer infrastructure. The Department is in full support of studying this important issue. We believe, however, that the existing Water Infrastructure Funding Sustainability Commission (SB 47) and the Governor's Water Sustainability Commission, both established in 2011, will adequately study and make recommendations related to addressing water infrastructure needs.

For information purposes, the following chart provides an estimate of the anticipated water infrastructure funding needs over the next decade:

Water Infrastructure Category	Estimated 10-Year Need
Public Wastewater Systems (not including all expected nutrient removal projects)	\$1,300,000,000
Public Drinking Water Systems	\$800,000,000
Public Stormwater Systems	(preliminary estimate) \$98,000,000
State Owned Dams	\$18,000,000
Municipally Owned Dams	\$40,000,000
Total Water Infrastructure Needs	\$2,112,000,000

These needs are a result of aging and decaying infrastructure, regulatory changes, and growth.

The SB 47 Commission's preliminary findings underscore that keeping this infrastructure functioning benefits all, and can not be achieved in an affordable manner through user rates alone. Accordingly, the Commission is studying a variety of mechanisms, including education, long-term demand reduction, as well as possibly sustainable funding sources. The findings of the SB 47 Commission will be considered and used by the Governor's Water Sustainability Commission, which has been charged with creating a 25-year Water Sustainability Plan for NH. It is the intent of both groups to develop a long-term strategy for New Hampshire's water infrastructure that helps address the needs in an affordable manner for New Hampshire's citizens.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas S. Burack". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "B" at the end.

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Representative Robert Foose
Representative Candace Bouchard