



The State of New Hampshire  
**Department of Environmental Services**

**Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner**



*Celebrating 25 Years of Protecting  
New Hampshire's Environment*  
January 18, 2013

The Honorable Shannon Chandley, Chairman  
Resources, Recreation and Development Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 305  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 292, requiring milfoil decals on private vessels registered in other states or countries and operating on the inland waters of New Hampshire.

Dear Chairman Chandley:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 292, which would require milfoil decals on private vessels that are registered in other states or countries and that operate on the inland waters of New Hampshire.

This bill establishes a mandatory display of a decal to promote milfoil (and other exotic aquatic plant) awareness on private vessels that are registered out of state, and using New Hampshire's inland waters. This decal will result in both increased awareness of the problem of invasive aquatic plants and increased revenue for exotic aquatic plant control and prevention efforts in the state.

Transient boaters (those boaters who recreate in multiple bodies of water) are the primary vectors for the spread for invasive aquatic plants, as evidenced by the fact that most new infestations start first at the public access sites of waterbodies. Transient boaters from out of state can introduce new species not yet documented in New Hampshire. These introductions yield further threats to native aquatic flora and fauna, and to the aesthetics of New Hampshire's aquatic resources. Currently, New Hampshire has a total of 79 infested waterbodies, with variable milfoil as the most common invasive species.

This bill provides an expanded opportunity to prevent new infestations of exotic aquatic plants and to control the infestations that already have a foothold in New Hampshire.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of this bill. Please contact Amy Smagula, Exotic Species Program Coordinator, at 271-2248 or [amy.smagula@des.nh.gov](mailto:amy.smagula@des.nh.gov), or me at 271-2958 or [thomas.burack@des.nh.gov](mailto:thomas.burack@des.nh.gov) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack  
Commissioner

cc: Representative C. Ahlgren  
Representative S. Schmidt  
Representative J. Spang  
Senator J. Bradley

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