



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

February 5, 2013

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

RE: HB 507-FN; Relative to the maximum permit application fee for certain municipal dredging projects.

Dear Chair Chandley:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 507-FN, which would establish a maximum wetlands application fee of \$5,000 for municipal dredging projects whose primary purpose is to restore or reclaim a lake or pond. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) does not support HB 507-FN as proposed.

Based on past experience, it is unlikely that DES would be asked to permit more than one of these types of projects every four to ten years. Based upon our experience with other types of large scale projects, we would expect that the costs to review, permit, and monitor these types of municipal dredge projects would be in the order of \$10,000 to \$15,000, substantially higher than the proposed maximum permit application fee of \$5,000. Therefore, the costs to the state would substantially exceed the maximum permit fee revenues for these projects.

As proposed, HB 507-FN is also not consistent with existing sections of statute. Specifically, there is currently a statutory cap of \$10,000 on wetlands application fees for similar projects from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT) projects [ref. RSA 482-A:3,X.(a)] and tidal dredging projects to improve navigation for a municipality [ref. RSA-482-A:3,X.(b)].

We recommend that this bill be amended to cap the application fee at \$10,000, rather than \$5,000. A \$10,000 cap would be more in line with actual expected costs and be consistent with the maximum statutory fees set for similar municipal tidal dredging projects.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please contact Mr. Collis Adams at 271-4054, or me at 271-2958, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

for Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Representatives Daniels and Sweeney
Senator Bragdon

DES Web site: www.des.nh.gov

P.O. Box 95, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

Telephone: (603) 271-3503 • Fax: (603) 271-2867 • TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964