



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner



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

April 24, 2013

The Honorable David Boutin, Chairman
Public and Municipal Affairs
Legislative Office Building, Room 102
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 510- relative to backflow prevention valves

Dear Chairman Boutin:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 510. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports HB 510 as amended by the House. The bill's sponsor, Representative Emerick, worked closely with DES and the New Hampshire Water Works Association on this legislation. We believe that the bill clarifies and improves the current law in that it aligns the statute with existing rules and current industry standards.

DES implements the backflow prevention through administrative rules, Env-Ws 364, which specify in detail certain requirements for the installation, operation, maintenance and testing of backflow prevention devices. These devices are installed at the service connections to commercial and industrial facilities in order to prevent backflow into the public water distribution system, which could occur (and has occurred) under certain types of water system failures. The devices required depend upon the level of public health risk. For example, if the toxicity of the chemicals used in a facility is high then the required device would need to be more protective than if no toxic chemicals are used.

HB 510 clarifies the circumstances when backflow prevention devices are required, the frequency of device testing based on the relative hazard, and the responsibilities of the facility owner for testing and maintaining these devices. This would improve the existing statutes.

Thank you for this 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.

Very truly yours,

for Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Representatives Emerick and Rice
Senator Stiles

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