



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner
February 13, 2013

The Honorable Russell Prescott, Chairman
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 101
Concord, NH 03301

RE: SB 131 – Relative to a permitting process for the removal of submerged logs from certain great ponds.

Dear Chairman Prescott:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 131, relative to the permitting process for the removal of submerged logs from certain great ponds. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this bill as introduced.

SB 131 would authorize the Governor and Executive Council to grant municipalities the right to remove submerged logs under certain conditions. Specifically, removals would be enabled when submerged logs pose a hazard to navigation, public safety or the environment and if the municipality can demonstrate that the removal would not pose a greater hazard than if the logs were to be left in place. Prior to petitioning the Governor and Executive Council for approval, a municipality would be required to hold a public hearing in conjunction with DES on the project. In addition, the petition would be required to include the recommendation of DES concerning the project to ensure that all state and federal permitting requirements have been addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill. Please contact Collis Adams, Wetlands Bureau Administrator at 271-4054 or at collis.adams@des.nh.gov, or Rene Pelletier, Assistant Water Division Director at 271-2951 or at rene.pelletier@des.nh.gov if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

for Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Senator Bradley