



The State of New Hampshire  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

April 22, 2014

The Honorable Jim Rausch, Chair  
Senate Transportation Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 103  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 292 - relative to registration fees for commercial, private and pleasure vessels**

Dear Chairman Rausch and Members of the Committee:

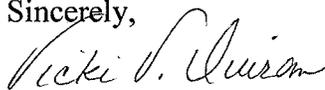
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 292. This bill would increase revenue for exotic aquatic species control activities in New Hampshire waterbodies through a \$2 increase to the boat registration fee. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this bill.

The Lake Restoration Fund provides matching grants for exotic aquatic species control activities to local governments and non-profit groups across New Hampshire. The additional revenue from this bill would be used by DES to award more grants to lake associations and municipalities for the control of exotic aquatic plants in local lakes and rivers. There is currently an annual shortfall of control funds due to the demand for exotic aquatic plant control grants, and this demand continues to increase along with the extent of the problem. At present, there are 79 infested waterbodies across New Hampshire, but current funding levels will only support grants to 30-40 waterbodies each year.

This bill, if passed, would result in \$190,000 in added revenue for control projects, which would fund an additional ten to twenty projects per year. Annually, the funding is split more or less evenly between grants to municipalities and grants to lake associations and non-profits. All of the revenues from this fee increase would be transferred from the Navigation and Safety Fund, through which they are collected, and deposited into the non-lapsing Lake Restoration Fund at DES for grants to control exotic aquatic plants.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact either Amy Smagula, Exotic Species Program Coordinator at [Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov](mailto:Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov) or 603-271-2248, or me at [Thomas.Burack@des.nh.gov](mailto:Thomas.Burack@des.nh.gov) or 603-271-2958.

Sincerely,

  
for Thomas S. Burack  
Commissioner

CC. Rep. Gottling  
Rep. Mullen