



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

January 29, 2015

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

RE: HB 306, *An act relative to membership of the wetlands council and water council*

Dear Chairman Christensen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 306. This bill reduces the EX Officio membership of the Wetland and the Water Councils. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this bill as introduced.

Some state agencies have indicated that they are no longer able to provide representation at the council meetings due to reduced staffing and increasing workloads. Other members of the councils spend time and resources travelling to meetings only to find that due to the lack of a quorum a regular business meeting cannot be held. Reducing membership on the councils will facilitate a quorum allowing meetings to proceed as scheduled.

The Wetlands Council would be reduced by one member, the Commissioner of the Department of Safety or designee. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or designee, the Director of the Office of Energy and Planning or designee, and the Commissioner of the Department of Safety or designee would be eliminated from the Water Council.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Rene.Pelletier@des.nh.gov or 603-271-2951) or me (Thomas.burack@des.nh.gov or 603-271-2958).

Sincerely,


for Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

CC: Representative Suzanne Gottling, Sponsor
Representative Judith Spang, Sponsor