



The State of New Hampshire  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

January 26, 2016

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

RE: **HB 1589-FN** *An act prohibiting the transportation of exotic aquatic weeds.*

Dear Chairman Christensen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 1589. This bill would prohibit the transport of exotic aquatic weeds and provide guidelines for properly cleaning and draining transient boats. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) supports the concept of the bill, but still has concerns relative to specific language in the bill.

Data collected by both NHDES and others show that most new infestations of invasive aquatic species are found first at the boat launch sites of waterbodies. This suggests that transient boats launched at these sites are the primary vectors for spreading these species. New Hampshire currently has 85 waterbodies infested by exotic aquatic weeds, and four waterbodies that support dense infestations of invasive aquatic animals. Clearly, additional steps are needed to further prevent the spread of these species.

The NHDES has concerns about specific language proposed in the bill, specifically related to the intent required to show a violation; therefore, we respectfully request that the bill be referred to a study committee to further evaluate and refine the current language of the bill.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Amy Smagula, Exotic Species Program Coordinator ([amy.smagula@des.nh.gov](mailto:amy.smagula@des.nh.gov) or 603-271-2248) or Ted Diers, Watershed Management Bureau Administrator ([ted.diers@des.nh.gov](mailto:ted.diers@des.nh.gov) or 271-3289).

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack  
Commissioner

Cc: Reps. Gottling, Smith, Spang, Mullen, Ebel; Sens. Bradley, Fuller Clark