



The State of New Hampshire  
**Department of Environmental Services**



**Robert R. Scott, Commissioner**

January 23, 2018

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

**RE: HB 1810**, An Act establishing a commission to study the effectiveness of the current statutes related to management of non-tidal public water ways and the construction or placement of structures within them

Dear Chairman Christensen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1810, establishing a commission to study the effectiveness of the current statutes related to management of non-tidal public water ways and the construction or placement of structures within them. It has been at least 30 years since the last effort to review the ways in which New Hampshire's non-tidal public waters are utilized, their importance to various aspects of the economy, and the criteria and processes under which individuals and businesses are authorized to install structures within them was undertaken. During this time the State's population and economy have undergone significant changes which have affected the pressures placed on non-tidal public waters. As the agency tasked with reviewing requests to construct or place structures within public waters and balancing the needs of various stakeholder groups having a vested interest in the use of those waters, NHDES strongly supports this legislation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on HB 1810. If you have further questions or need additional information, please contact Darlene Forst ([Darlene.forst@des.nh.gov](mailto:Darlene.forst@des.nh.gov) 271-4067) or Eugene Forbes ([Eugene.Forbes@des.nh.gov](mailto:Eugene.Forbes@des.nh.gov) 271-3308).

Sincerely,

Robert R. Scott  
Commissioner

cc: Representatives Mullen, McConkey, and Chandler, and Senator Bradley