



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



**Robert R. Scott, Commissioner**

January 16, 2018

The Honorable Kevin Avard  
Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
State House, Room 100  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: SB 445, An Act Designating the Warner River as a protected river.**

Dear Chair Avard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 445, which would designate the Warner River into the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP). The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) is pleased to support this grassroots-driven legislation.

The designation would begin on the West Branch Warner River at its confluence with Andrew Brook in Bradford, extend 1.1 miles to the headwaters of the Warner River mainstem, and continue 19 miles through Warner, Sutton, and Webster to the Warner River's confluence with the Contocook River in Hopkinton.

NHDES' review of the Warner River nomination considered the important resources outlined in the nomination form, public comments received, and the recommendations of the Rivers Management Advisory Committee and the NHDES Rivers Coordinator. In each of the five resource categories evaluated - natural, managed, cultural, recreational, and other - the Warner River contains resources of local and regional significance. The river is also valued statewide for its natural, cultural, recreational, and other resources.

Public support for the nomination of the Warner River has been strong. The nomination document included 34 letters of support, and three members of the public spoke in favor of the nomination during the public hearing on July 11, 2017. During the public comment period, NHDES received five additional letters and emails of support, and only one email expressing opposition to the nomination.

A Report to the General Court on the nomination of the Warner River into the RMPP was submitted on September 20, 2017. The report specifies in greater detail the values and characteristics that qualify the Warner River for designation, and includes a map of the proposed designation. Both the Report to the General Court and the full nomination document are available on the NHDES website at <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/rivers/nominations.htm>.

[www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)

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The Warner River meets the criteria for designation based on the factors listed in RSA 483:6, IV and is consistent with the purposes of RSA 483. It is a worthy addition to the Rivers Management and Protection Program, and NHDES strongly recommends its inclusion in the RMPP.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on SB 445. If you have further questions or need additional information, please contact Tracie Sales ([tracie.sales@des.nh.gov](mailto:tracie.sales@des.nh.gov), 271-2959) or Ted Diers ([ted.diers@des.nh.gov](mailto:ted.diers@des.nh.gov), 271-3289).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Scott", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Robert R. Scott  
Commissioner

cc: Senator Ward, and Representatives Suzanne Smith, Carson, Mullen, Myler, Luneau