



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

February 5, 2019

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

RE: HB 107 FN-A - AN ACT making appropriations for costs involved in controlling invasive aquatic species.

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 107 FN-A. This bill would make an appropriation to cover costs involved in managing invasive aquatic species in state waterbodies. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) supports this bill.

Currently, 86 waterbodies are infested with some type of invasive aquatic species, including 11 rivers and 75 lakes. Some of these waterbodies have as many as six different invasive aquatic species. There are generally one or two new infestations documented each year as invasives continue to spread.

The Exotic Species Program at NHDES focuses on a multi-pronged approach in addressing invasive aquatic species, including prevention, early detection, rapid response, and long-term management. Need for funds for each of these activities easily exceeds the current funding level of about \$500,000 annually; in fact, nearly \$1.5 million was requested in 2018. Funding availability often requires grantees to scale back on projects and limits control efforts to about one-third of the infested waterbodies. NHDES funds between 25-40% of the total control costs, while local municipalities and non-profits contribute the balance of the costs. Because all available grant funds are awarded each year, there are no reserves on hand to address sudden new invasions, so they are added to the queue for grant funds the following year.

Additional revenue would expand program capacity for additional prevention activities to slow the rate of invasive species spread, expand control projects and create rapid-response initiatives to expedite management of new infestations.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on HB 107 FN-A. Should you have questions, or need additional information, please feel free to contact Amy Smagula, Exotic Species Program Coordinator, at 603-271-2248 or Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Scott
Commissioner

cc: Sponsors of HB 107-FN-A: Representatives Gould, Gay; Senators Ward, Reagan