



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

April 30, 2019

The Honorable David Watters
Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
LOB, Room 103
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 625-FN, relative to an aquatic invasive species decal for boats

Dear Chair Watters and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 625-FN. This bill seeks to create an aquatic invasive species decal for the powerboats registered in states other than New Hampshire. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) supports the bill.

The primary vector for the spread of aquatic invasive species is transient boaters. There are currently upwards of 100,000 registered boats in the state of New Hampshire, and an indeterminate number of transient out-of-state boaters who cross borders and visit New Hampshire waterbodies during the boating season. State efforts have long been underway to educate boaters who are registered in New Hampshire, with messages included in boat registration renewals, boater safety classes, boater guides and other educational materials. Without being able to identify the pool of transient boaters who are registered elsewhere, it is highly challenging to educate them about invasives, and even harder to ask them to pay their fair share in the costs of prevention and management of these species.

The revenues derived from this bill would allow for expanded program capacity for additional prevention activities to slow the rate of invasive species spread, expanded control projects, work on currently unmanaged infestations, and rapid-response capacity. These funds would flow through the existing Exotic Species Program at NHDES.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on HB 625-FN. 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: Sponsor of HB 625-FN: Representative S. Smith