



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

January 29, 2019

The Honorable Martha Fuller Clark
Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
State House, Room 103
Concord, NH 03301

RE: SB 202-FN-A – An Act establishing the stormwater management and flood resilience fund within the department of environmental services

Dear Chair Fuller Clark and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 202-FN-A, which would establish a stormwater management and flood resilience fund within the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). NHDES supports the concept of establishing this fund.

This bill addresses two major issues facing New Hampshire communities: managing stormwater and reducing the risk posed by extreme storm events. As communities become more densely developed, their total paved area increases and management of precipitation that falls on those paved areas becomes more challenging.

Stormwater management includes both flood control and water quality control. Although New Hampshire's surface water is generally of good quality, where surface water quality is poor, about 90% of the time it results from stormwater. Contaminated stormwater is often responsible for beach advisories, algal blooms, and murky river water.

Stormwater management for water quality control has become an increasingly urgent matter for the 44 New Hampshire municipalities that are subject to the EPA's municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permits. These permits will require the communities, which are mostly located in the southern tier of the state, to expend additional resources on stormwater management and monitoring.

NHDES is available to provide background and technical information to assist the committee as needed. Please feel free to contact Ted Diers, Watershed Management Bureau Administrator, at ted.diers@des.nh.gov or 271-3894, or Steve Couture, Coastal Program Administrator, at steven.couture@des.nh.gov or 271- 8801, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

cc: Sponsors of SB 202-FN-A: Senators Fuller Clark, Watters; Representatives Bixby, Malloy

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