



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

February 5, 2019

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

RE: SB 254-FN-A – AN ACT appropriating funds to the department of environmental services for the purpose of funding eligible wastewater projects under the state aid grant program.

Dear Chair Fuller Clark and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 254-FN-A. This bill would appropriate funds for eligible and completed wastewater projects under the state aid grant program as authorized per RSA 486.

Since inception, over the past 50 years, about \$450 million in aid has been granted to eligible New Hampshire entities to help offset the cost of local environmental infrastructure projects and keep user rates affordable. Many of New Hampshire's communities would have found necessary environmental infrastructure projects unaffordable were it not for state aid.

The state aid grant program provides incentive for NH communities to move forward on much needed wastewater infrastructure projects to replace aging infrastructure and ensure clean rivers, lakes and groundwater, all of which the state holds in public trust. This investment in local infrastructure has unquestionably benefited the entire state in the form of a healthy and clean environment which draws many outdoor enthusiasts to the state and helps support our vital statewide tourism economy.

SB 254-FN-A appropriates \$3,652,347 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 and \$3,781,024 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 for eligible and completed wastewater projects. These funds will provide aid to about 70 projects in 35 NH communities.

NHDES is available to provide background and technical information to assist the committee as needed. Please feel free to contact Tracy Wood, Wastewater Engineering Bureau Administrator, at tracy.wood@des.nh.gov or 271-2001, or Beth Malcolm at beth.malcolm@des.nh.gov or 271- 2978, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Scott
Commissioner

cc: Sponsors of SB 254-FN-A: Sen. Bradley, Rep. Buco