



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



**Robert R. Scott, Commissioner**

March 26, 2021

The Honorable Kevin Avar  
Chairman, Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
State House, Senate Chamber  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 344 – An Act relative to temporary docks

Dear Chair Avar and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 344. This bill proposes modifications to the availability of the permitting exemption for certain seasonal dock piers and the eligibility criteria for the registration of existing docking structures. The NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) supports this bill.

Specifically, NHDES supports this legislation because it restores the pre-existing limitation on the exemption from permitting to exclude seasonal piers on rivers and streams. In riverine environments, such structures may break free during flood events and present hazards to downstream dams. Many landowners located upstream of federally licensed hydropower facilities are unaware of the need to obtain permission from those facilities prior to installing docking structures. NHDES, through its own permitting requirements, has helped both landowners and hydropower generators maintain compliance with federal regulations by facilitating communication where needed. NHDES believes that these are important public safety measures and thus looks forward to the passage of this legislation.

Should you have questions, or would like additional information, please feel free to contact either Darlene Forst, Shoreland Section Supervisor, at 603-271-4067 or [Darlene.c.forst@des.nh.gov](mailto:Darlene.c.forst@des.nh.gov) or Rene Pelletier, Assistant Director, Water Division at 603-271-2951 or [Rene.j.pelletier@des.nh.gov](mailto:Rene.j.pelletier@des.nh.gov).

Sincerely,

Robert R. Scott  
Commissioner

cc: Sponsors of HB 344: Representatives Suzanne Smith, Andrew Renzullo, and Mark McConkey