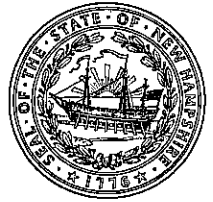




The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

May 21, 2009

The Honorable Martha Fuller Clark, Chairman
Senate Energy, Environment, and Economic Development Committee
Legislative office Building, Room 102
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB-350-R, Relative to Household Cleaning Products Containing Phosphorus

Dear Chairman Clark:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 350, which would ban all household cleansing products that contain more than trace amounts of phosphorus. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this bill.

RSA 485-A:56, which prohibits the sale of most household cleansing products containing phosphorus, became effective on January 1, 1994. However, dishwasher detergents were specifically exempted from this prohibition because of concerns that phosphorus-free detergents did not have the same cleaning properties as phosphorus-based detergents in dishwashers. We understand that this is no longer a concern because phosphorus-free detergents have improved over the last 15 years.

Elevated phosphorus concentrations in surface waters can trigger algae and cyanobacteria blooms because phosphorus is typically the limiting nutrient for propagation of these organisms in fresh water lakes and rivers. Therefore, we should take advantage of any opportunity to limit phosphorus inputs from sources such as household cleansing products. This will be the result of the passage of HB 350.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call me at 271-2958 or Jody Connor at 271-3414.

Sincerely,

Michael Walls, Ass't. Comm.
for Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Rep. Gottling
Rep. Shurtleff
Rep. Millham
Rep. Hills
Rep. Davis
Sen. Cilley
Sen. Merrill
Sen. Odell

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