



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

April 7, 2011

The Honorable Bob Odell, Chairman
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Room 102
Legislative Office Building
Concord, NH 03301

Re: HB 44, designating segments of the Oyster River as protected under the rivers management and protection program.

Dear Senator Odell:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 44 as amended, which would designate the Oyster River as a protected river pursuant to the Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP) from the headwaters at Hall Road in Barrington to the Mill Pond dam in Durham. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this legislation.

The proposed designation of the Oyster River as a protected river under the RMPP is consistent with the conclusions from our review of the Oyster River nomination in 2010. Our conclusions are summarized in my report to the General Court dated January, 2011 (copy attached) which recommends that *"The General Court should adopt legislation that designates the Oyster River for inclusion in the Rivers Management and Protection Program and designates the Oyster River...."* In developing this recommendation, DES considered the nomination package submitted by the Oyster River Watershed Association, public comment, and the recommendation for RMPP designation by the Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC), as submitted to me by letter dated September 30, 2010 (copy attached), from Dr. Kenneth Kimball, RMAC Chair. Our detailed evaluation is presented in the attached report, The Oyster River: A Report to the General Court, dated January, 2011.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Steve Couture, Rivers Coordinator at 271-8801, or me at 271-2958.

Sincerely,


for Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

Enclosures

TSB/smc

cc: Senator Amanda Merrill
Representative Janet Wall
Representative Sam Catalado
Eric Fiengenbaum, Oyster River Watershed Association (via electronic mail)
RMAC Members (via electronic mail)
Barbara Skuly, Chair, Ashuelot River LAC (via email)
Rick Healey, Chair, Cocheco River LAC (via email)
Theresa Darling, Business Manager, CRJC (via email)
Don Clement, Chair, Exeter River LAC (via email)
Sarah Callaghan, Chair, Lamprey River LAC (via email)
Max Stamp, Chair, Pemigewasset River LAC (via email)
George May, Chair, Souhegan River LAC (via email)

Representative L. Mike Kappler
Representative Nada Kaen
Representative Carol Vita

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair, Upper Merrimack LAC (via email)
Charlie Ryan, Chair, Ammonoosuc River LAC (via email)
Jenny Polcari, Co-Chair, Cold River LAC (via email)
Michelle Hamm, Chair, Contoocook River LAC (via email)
Liz Evans, Chair, Isinglass River LAC (via email)
Kathryn Nelson, Chair, Lower Merrimack River LAC (via email)
Dick Ludders, Chair, Piscataquog River LAC (via email)
Robert Parrish, Chair, Swift River LAC (via email)

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