



*Members dedicated to protecting lakes*

January 26, 2012

The Honorable Andrew Renzullo, Chair  
Resources, Recreation and Development Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 305  
Concord, NH 03301

**HB 1529-FN relative to the introduction of fluoride and herbicides into the drinking water of the state**

Dear Chair Renzullo and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on HB 1529-FN, relative to the introduction of fluoride and herbicides into the drinking water of the state. The New Hampshire Lakes Association opposes this bill. NH LAKES represents over 1400 individual and family members, and 150 associations and private businesses. Our mission is to restore and protect the quality of New Hampshire's lakes and ponds and try to achieve balanced use of these water resources. Restoring and protecting lake water quality requires a comprehensive and adaptive approach, and requires a number of specialized tools. Chemical herbicides, some of which may contain fluoride, are an essential tool in that tool box. If passed, this law would effectively prohibit the use of such lake management tools, or at the very least remove this decision making ability from the people best able to decide.

The use of herbicides in New Hampshire's waters is primarily to help in the control of exotic invasive weeds that otherwise create infestations that greatly diminish most of the recreational activity in that water body and can severely negatively impact local economies. Herbicide application is expensive and must be part of a planned approach and as such is not an activity taken lightly by any lake or watershed association, nor by any oversight or regulatory agency. It is most often a tool of last resort, one which is then supplemented or replaced with non-chemical means of controlling invasive weeds. It is also a highly regulated activity, particularly as it relates to drinking water supplies, and requires both official and public review and approval. HB 1529 as proposed would eliminate the local public input component, effectively removing local control of such projects.

NH LAKES strongly opposes this law and encourages this committee to vote it inexpedient to legislate. Thank you again for this opportunity to comment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom O'Brien".

Tom O'Brien, President  
New Hampshire Lakes Association