

NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ASSOCIATION

January 22, 2025

The Honorable Kenneth Weyler
Chair, House Finance Committee
Legislative Office Building, Rooms 210-211
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 97 – AN ACT making an appropriation to the department of environmental services for wastewater infrastructure projects.

Dear Chairman Weyler and Members of the Committee:

New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association (NHWPCA) is a nonprofit membership organization that provides education, workforce training, expertise, and advocacy for NH's clean water utilities. Our 300+ members represent all the publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities (WWTFs) across the state of New Hampshire.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 97, which provides critical funding for wastewater infrastructure improvements through the State Aid Grant (SAG). This funding is key for meeting the State's statutory obligation under RSA 486-A and ensuring the long-term reliability of New Hampshire's wastewater infrastructure.

HB 97 appropriates \$15,000,000 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2026, and \$15,000,000 for fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, to support eligible and completed wastewater infrastructure projects. This funding assists communities from all parts of NH, whether residents rely on town sewer or private septic systems – every flush is eventually treated at a WWTF.

Properly functioning wastewater treatment facilities are crucial for maintaining water quality, protecting aquatic ecosystems, and ensuring clean water for recreational use. Many of New Hampshire's WWTFs are over 40 years old and local municipalities rely on their partnership with the State to complete infrastructure projects necessary to replace aging and insufficient systems. Without state support, municipalities may face financial burdens that can delay or prevent necessary improvements.

NHWPCA and its members are dedicated stewards of the environment and public health. We urge you to support HB 97 to ensure New Hampshire can continue to meet its wastewater management challenges effectively, equitably, and sustainably.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or require additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Costa, NHWPCA President

April Sargent, Board of Directors &
Government Affairs Committee Chair



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