



January 14, 2026

Chair Robert Harb
New Hampshire House Resources, Recreation, and Development
Legislative Offices, 1 Granite Place, Room 228
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1477, AN ACT relative to the permitting and regulation of anchored seasonal floating platforms on public waters

Dear Chair Harb and Members of the House Resources, Recreation, and Development Committee,

On behalf of NH LAKES, I am writing to express our strong support for HB 1477, relative to the permitting and regulation of anchored seasonal floating platforms on public waters.

NH LAKES represents approximately 150 local lake associations, community groups, and thousands of individuals across New Hampshire. We are a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring and preserving the health of New Hampshire's lakes. Healthy lakes are essential to drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries, wildlife habitat, tourism, and the economic vitality of our state.

What This Bill Does

This bill requires all anchored seasonal platforms on public waters to obtain a \$50 permit from the Department of Safety, Division of State Police Marine Patrol. Permit revenue is split evenly, with \$25 going to the Navigation Safety Fund, which funds marine patrol operations and boating safety enforcement, and \$25 to the Cyanobacteria Mitigation Loan and Grant Fund.

Why This Bill Matters

This bill strengthens boating and navigation safety by supporting marine patrol operations, while also creating a new, sustainable funding source to help communities address harmful cyanobacteria blooms. While the Department of Safety estimates it would need two additional staff to administer the program, the revenue from registering platforms across New Hampshire's approximately 1,000 lakes is likely to far outweigh the added administrative costs.

Harmful cyanobacteria blooms continue to increase in frequency and severity across New Hampshire lakes and rivers, posing risks to public health, drinking water supplies, recreation, property values, and local economies. The Cyanobacteria Mitigation Loan and Grant Fund, established in 2023, has already supported important work by nonprofit lake and watershed associations. However, the fund is now nearly depleted, even as more communities seek assistance.

There is no single or simple solution to funding cyanobacteria mitigation at the scale required to meet this growing challenge. NH LAKES views HB 1477 as one of several necessary funding approaches needed to sustain the fund over time. Addressing cyanobacteria will require contributions from the many stakeholders who benefit from clean and healthy lakes and rivers, including residents, visitors, recreational users, businesses, and communities.

HB 1477 represents an incremental step toward building a more reliable funding base for cyanobacteria mitigation projects that protect water quality and lake and river ecosystems.

For these reasons, NH LAKES respectfully urges the committee to recommend HB 1477 as Ought to Pass.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to protecting New Hampshire's lakes and natural resources. If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please contact me at alamoreaux@nhlakes.org or 603.226.0299.

Respectfully,



Andrea LaMoreaux
NH LAKES President & Policy Advocate

cc: Representative John MacDonald, prime sponsor