



New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

SERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1970

TO: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
FROM: Barbara Richter, NHACC Executive Director
DATE: January 14, 2026
SUBJECT: Written testimony regarding HB 1530

Thank you, members of the committee for the opportunity to comment on House bill 1530. Removal of beaver dams can create unintended consequences for landowners upstream and the public. Requiring notification to your neighbor it allows them to plan for the change in water flow to avoid any property damage. **Please vote yes, OTP**, to ensure that landowners who are impacted by the removal of beaver dams will be notified and have the opportunity to discuss benefits and concerns.

Beavers play an incredible role in shaping our landscape which provides benefits for humans. They are ecosystems engineers who create high value habitat for New Hampshire wildlife. Beaver ponds recharge groundwater and help to reduce impacts from floods and drought. They play a role in ensuring water quality protection by creating wetlands that filter stormwater and help remove waste and contaminants. Freshwater wetlands remove excess fertilizers, toxic metals and sediment before they enter our streams and surface waters.

The importance of beavers in establishing ponds and wetlands should be carefully examined before removal of a beaver dam is considered. Transparency should be a priority for cities and towns who want to control beavers and remove beaver dams. Dam removal should be weighed against all the benefits of water preservation and habitat maintenance.

Beaver dam flow devices can be used to regulate water flow while maintaining ponds and wetlands. This method of beaver control helps to protect property values and maintain valuable wetlands. When water flow devices are used to control beaver dams, they are often more cost effective and less damaging to the landscape. Water flow control devices allow beavers to remain in the ecosystem while keeping the benefits and reducing conflicts with humans.

Vote 'Ought to Pass' on House Bill 1530 to ensure abutters have the opportunity to look at and consider alternative methods to solve concerns before their land is impacted by the removal of a beaver dam.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Richter
NHACC Executive Director

The NH Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) is a nonprofit organization which serves the 217 municipal conservation commissions in the state. Our mission is to benefit NHs conservation commissions in their work to properly utilize & protect the natural environment.