



February 4, 2026

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

**RE: HB 1020, AN ACT proclaiming Lake Winnepesaukee the official state lake of New Hampshire**

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 1020, proclaiming Lake Winnepesaukee the official state lake of New Hampshire.**

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 approximately 1,000 lakes and ponds. Healthy lakes and ponds are essential to drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries, wildlife habitat, tourism, and the economic vitality of our state.

### **What This Bill Does**

HB 1020 designates Lake Winnepesaukee as the official state lake of New Hampshire by inserting a new section into RSA 3 establishing this recognition in statute.

### **Why This Bill Matters**

NH LAKES strongly supports this designation because it highlights the central role lakes and ponds play in New Hampshire's identity, economy, and quality of life. Lake Winnepesaukee is our state's largest lake and one of New Hampshire's most visible drivers of recreation and tourism—an economic engine that supports local businesses, communities, and jobs.

NH LAKES does not believe one lake is more important than another. New Hampshire's lakes are all unique, and each one matters, whether it is large or small, well-known or tucked away in a quiet corner of the state. Every lake supports wildlife habitat, offers recreational opportunities, and enhances the character and value of the communities around it.

Designating Lake Winnepesaukee as the official state lake is an opportunity to shine a spotlight on the importance of all of New Hampshire's nearly 1,000 lakes and ponds, and on the shared responsibility we have to protect them. This recognition can help elevate public awareness and encourage a statewide commitment to ensuring New Hampshire is a place where caring for lakes and ponds is a way of living, doing business, and governing.

Importantly, HB 1020 has bipartisan support, reflecting a truth that resonates across political lines: protecting clean water is something New Hampshire can unite around. Regardless of party, we all benefit from healthy lakes and ponds, and we all have a role to play in protecting them for future generations.

**For these reasons, NH LAKES respectfully urges the committee to recommend HB 1020 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](mailto:alamoreaux@nhlakes.org) or 603.226.0299.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea LaMoreaux". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Andrea LaMoreaux  
NH LAKES President & Policy Advocate

cc: Representative Jim Maggiore, prime sponsor