



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 1148, AN ACT adding cyanobacteria and algae blooms to the study of the exotic aquatic weeds and species committee.

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 1148, adding cyanobacteria and algae blooms to the study of the exotic aquatic weeds and species committee.

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

HB 1148 expands the duties of the Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee under RSA 487:30 by adding a specific focus on harmful algal blooms and cyanobacteria. The bill directs the committee to:

- Study and discuss factors contributing to the proliferation of harmful algal blooms and cyanobacteria in New Hampshire's surface waters, including potential relationships between aquatic invasive species and nutrient dynamics; and
- Aid the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services in the control and eradication of milfoil, harmful algal blooms, and cyanobacteria.

HB 1148 brings cyanobacteria and algal blooms into an existing stakeholder forum, strengthening collaboration and supporting more science-based solutions to this growing water-quality threat.

Why This Bill Matters

Harmful cyanobacteria blooms are increasing in frequency and severity across New Hampshire's lakes and rivers. These blooms pose serious risks to public health, drinking water supplies, recreation, property values, and local economies.

NH LAKES supports HB 1148 because it enhances coordination and problem-solving by integrating cyanobacteria and algae blooms into an established committee already focused on waterbody management. This is a practical and cost-effective approach that strengthens collaboration among agencies, legislators, and stakeholders, while helping identify effective strategies to prevent and respond to harmful blooms.

HB 1148 further recognizes the importance of advancing understanding of the factors contributing to bloom formation. This includes the potential interaction between aquatic invasive species and nutrient dynamics. With this knowledge, New Hampshire can continue developing informed, science-based strategies to protect water quality statewide.

For these reasons, NH LAKES respectfully urges the committee to recommend HB 1148 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 Tanya Donnelly, prime sponsor