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# NH Rivers Management Advisory Committee

NH Rivers Management and Protection Program



February 11, 2026

The Honorable John Hunt, Chair  
House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee  
Granite Place, Room 229  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 1265** *An act prohibiting the construction of data centers in the state and establishing a committee to study the environmental impact of data centers.*

Dear Chair Hunt and Members of the Committee,

The Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is writing to express its **support of House Bill 1265**, which creates a study committee and prohibits the construction of data centers for one year.

The RMAC supports this bill because

- Data centers require large quantities of water for cooling purposes to operate, drawing from rivers, aquifers, and other waterbodies already under the strain, due to droughts, of meeting essential uses such as drinking water and fire suppression.
- Water used in cooling that is discharged from data centers are at much higher temperatures than the rivers that received them, that adversely affects habitats and which creates optimal conditions for invasive species and algal growth; and
- Limiting this prohibition for one year while the study committee considers the issue will allow for informed decision making without compromising future economic opportunities.

The RMAC is a legislatively created body charged to work with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to administer RSA 483, the Rivers Management and Protection Program. The Governor and Council appointed Committee is composed of members from business, agriculture, hydroelectric, municipal government, water supply, conservation, recreation, fish and game, and historical interests.

Should you have any questions regarding our testimony in support of HB 1265, feel free to contact me at 603.796.2615 or [MLT@naturesource.net](mailto:MLT@naturesource.net).

Sincerely,

Michele L. Tremblay, Chair

cc: Representatives Schmidt, W. Thomas and Caplan

RMAC Representatives

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner, NHDES

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