

NH LAKES Advocacy Alert



March 6, 2015

A PUBLICATION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE LAKES ASSOCIATION

OUR CALL TO ACTION WAS HEARD!

A few weeks ago we issued a CALL TO ACTION to a subset of our Advocacy Program followers who are directly involved with the Lake Host Program, relative to **House Bill (HB) 667**. This bill would require aquatic invasive species (AIS) inspections of boats entering a waterbody to participate in permitted, on-water events, including boat parades, races, and fishing derbies.

The response of this group to our request to take action was outstanding - over 30 individuals reached out to their state legislators or to the House Resources, Recreation and Development (RR&D) Committee to express support for the bill! We extend a special thank you to Dee-Ann Decker, from Pawtuckaway Lake, who provided testimony at the RR&D committee meeting in Concord about the challenges their Lake Hosts face relative to covering permitted events, and to Larry Sunderland, representing NH Audubon, who also spoke in support of HB 667.

We wanted to take this opportunity to let everyone who normally receives the NH LAKES Advocacy Alert know what we accomplished with HB 667.

HERE'S WHAT HAPPENED

We realized that HB 667 had some problems. The major problem with the bill is that it would have made AIS inspections mandatory for one group of boaters (event permittees) but inspections for all other



NH LAKES is the only statewide, member supported 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting New Hampshire lakes and their watersheds.

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**Navigating the
State Legislature**

boaters would remain voluntary - an inequitable situation.

Despite the problems with HB 667, the House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee members expressed overwhelming support for its intent - to prevent the further spread of aquatic invasive species. We participated in a subcommittee work session with committee members and state agency staff to reach consensus on an educational approach.

Since then, staff from NH LAKES and the N.H. Departments of Environmental Services, Fish and Game, and Safety have worked together to develop outreach materials that will be provided to each event permittee encouraging participating boaters to clean, drain and dry their boats to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. In addition, the agencies are working to provide information to the public about the location and timing of upcoming on-water events - this could help Lake Hosts prepare to meet these groups at their ramps. HB 667 did not pass, but it did help to create some very positive movement for our cause.

The message that we want to convey to every boater is that they need to clean, drain and dry their boat, trailer and gear when moving between waterbodies in order to prevent the spread of AIS. We know that more people are doing this every year and that by reaching boaters participating in regattas, fishing tournaments and the like, we will tighten our defenses against the further spread of AIS. For most people, they just need to get the message.

ON THE HORIZON

We will have a more comprehensive update for you soon on all NH LAKES Advocacy activities, as well as on the progress of state budget talks.

In terms of the budget, the environmental agencies are struggling to maintain the programs and services that we rely on to protect our lakes and the other natural resources that we value. Please express your support of these agencies by contacting the House Finance Committee ([click here](#)) or doing so at one of the remaining public meetings on the state budget sponsored by the House Finance Committee:



Find your Legislator!
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Meeting & Hearing Schedule:

NH House: [Click here.](#)
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Find a Bill
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Help support our work & protect our lakes!

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JOIN NOW

Make a donation!



Click on the button above.

Date: Monday, March 9, 5:00 PM
Location: Kennet High School Auditorium, 409 Eagles Way, North Conway

Date: Monday, March 9, 4:00 PM
Location: Derry Town Hall, 14 Manning Street, Derry

As always, please feel free to contact me at tobrien@nhlakes.org or (603) 226-0299.

On behalf of the New Hampshire Lakes Association,

Tom O'Brien
President and Policy Advocate

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