

Testimony of Peter Rice
NH Shoreline and Property Rights Guardians
SB 154-FN Legislative Hearing

February 17, 2011

I am Peter Rice and I am here to testify on behalf of the NH Shoreline and Property Rights Guardians. I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today. After testifying over the past three years on the need to amend the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act, we are gratified that members of the legislature have proposed SB 154-FN.

It contains numerous positive changes to the law that will assist property owners and have a positive effect on water quality. It restores the rights of property owners to conduct their normal family life; it simplifies the permitting procedure for small projects; it ensures our right to privacy on our own property; it establishes reasonable and useful standards for preserving water quality and provides for alternatives to meet these standards; it provides some flexibility for the use and development of our property; it rightfully attaches civil penalties to those who knowingly violate the law and damage the waterway; and it allows rehearing's and appeals of DES decisions to a board of peers.

In brief, SB 154-FN converts the CSPA into the act we all hoped it would be from its inception, and we are totally supportive of it.

Thank you.