

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

LOCATION: 3 SILK FARM RD.

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May 12, 1989

URGENT MESSAGE re: Winnepesaukee River Dredging

Dear Audubon Member,

You are receiving this letter because you live in the electoral district of a NH legislator who has been assigned to the Committee of Conference which will deal with state funding to dredge the Winnepesaukee River.

Some of you, on Audubon's "Alert" team, received the enclosed blue sheet last week. The resulting phone calls to Senators played a significant—perhaps pivotal—role in achieving a 15-7 vote to remove the dredging money (\$1.2 million) from the State capital budget. Many Senators, before voting, mentioned the remarkable number of phone calls they received on this issue.

Yesterday, because the House and Senate versions of the capital budget differ, a Committee of Conference was appointed (4 Representatives, 3 Senators) to iron out those differences. The prospect of dredging the Winnepesaukee River will be a HOT TOPIC for the Committee.

Please take a moment before next Tuesday, May 16, to call the legislator who represents you on this committee and make your opposition to dredging the Winnepesaukee River known in no uncertain terms. (See list below.)

The enclosed blue "Alert" sheet summarizes the Audubon Society's deep concerns about the dredging. In addition to points made there, let me emphasize:

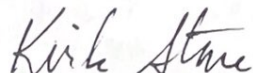
1. This is no time in NH's fiscal history to be writing blank checks to the US Army Corps of Engineers. While this proposal is for \$1.2 million, the federal money is firmly capped (at \$4.8 million) and the rules state clearly that all cost over-runs are the responsibility of the State. The Corps refuses to make a "final" estimate of the cost until NH is irrevocably committed to the project. For the state to become involved on that basis is fiscally irresponsible, plain and simple.
2. As this is being written, Lake Winnepesaukee is near flood stage. This condition does not argue for dredging. Engineering studies for both the Corps of Engineers and NH's Water Resources Board state clearly that dredging (adding more capacity to the river) will not affect lake levels. Lake levels are a function of management decisions, and the current managers—also the most vigorous advocates of dredging—are unwilling to institute the low cost and no cost management improvements which would address at least 85% of the flood control problems. The capacity of the river is, at best, 15% of the answer and should not be expanded until the other measures have been put in place. To dredge first is both fiscal and engineering folly.
3. Dredging advocates say that the opportunity to use federal money should not be lost (this federal funding is available only until July 1, 1989). We say that indiscriminate use of

federal money is not a worthy goal of state policy. Our priority is to do what is best for the Winnepesaukee River. No amount of federal money can be considered a benefit if it is expended to damage our environment.

4. The people in the affected area are opposed to dredging. The towns of Belmont, Tilton, and Sanbornton are all on record as opposed. All the Senators representing the area (Sens. Currier, Freese, Heath, and King) voted to remove the dredging from the capital budget last week. And numerous private associations and organizations are also opposed.

Thanks for your help on this one. Your **immediate attention** to a phone call can have a lasting and positive impact on NH environmental policy.

Sincerely yours,



Kirk Stone, Director
Environmental Affairs Department

If you live in Andover, Danbury, Hill, Salisbury, or Wilmot, call: **Rep. James Phelps of Danbury, 768-3330.**

If you live in Dalton or Whitefield, call **Rep. Harold Burns of Whitefield 837-2501.**

If you live in Atkinson and Gilmanton Academy Grant, Clarksville, Colebrook, Dix's Grant, Dixville, Pittsburg, Second College Grant, Stewartstown, or Wentworth's Location, call **Rep. Beaton Marsh of Colebrook, 237-4290.**

If you live in Bean's Grant, Bean's Purchase, Carroll, Chandler's Purchase, Crawford's Purchase, Cutt's Grant, Gorham, Green's Grant, Hadley's Purchase, Low & Burbank's Grant, Martin's Location, Pinkham's Grant, Randolph, Sargent's Purchase, Shelburne, Success, or Thompson & Meserve's Purchase, call **Rep. Otto Oleson of Gorham, 466-2169.**

If you live in Dover, Durham, Lee, Madbury, or Nottingham, call **Sen. Frank Torr of Dover, (h)742-7607, (w)742-5807, (Sen.)271-2246.**

If you live in Nashua, Wards 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8, call **Sen. Mary Nelson of Nashua, (h)888-5384, (Sen.)271-2119.**

If you live in Hudson, Litchfield, Londonderry, or Pelham, call **Sen. Rhona Charbonneau of Hudson, (h)883-9252, (Sen.)271-2675.**

(The following two Senators are alternates, but should be called.)

If you live in Exeter, Hampton, Hampton Falls, Kensington, Newfields, Newmarket, Seabrook, or Stratham, call **Sen. Bob Preston of Hampton, (h)926-1795, (w)474-3453, (Sen.)271-2117.**

If you live in Amherst, Bedford, Frankestown, Merrimack, Mont Vernon, or New Boston, call **Sen. Shelia Roberge of Bedford, (h)472-8391, (Sen.)271-2735.**