

Sample Letter – use bullets and add your language or use as is?

Date:

NHDES Wetlands Bureau
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

**Re: Wetlands Application # 2008-02781
Proposed New Hampshire Fish & Game Boat Access, Lake Sunapee**

Dear Wetlands Bureau,

I would like to express some concerns regarding the proposed boat launch at the Wild Goose site on Lake Sunapee. I do not oppose more public access to Lake Sunapee but have concerns about the scope and impacts of this proposal. In addition to non-compliance with local regulations and state law (the NH Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act), there are significant and *avoidable* wetland impacts in the NH Fish & Game Proposal.

NHDES Wetlands applications require that proposed project impacts be addressed and that supporting information be provided by the applicant. Among those items that need to be addressed are:

- *The need for the proposed impact;*

The need for (the scope of) this project has not been adequately established and the need for additional motorboat access has not been established. NHF&G's mandate to provide public access refers to all public access and not "unlimited powerboat" access as stated in their initial proposal.

- *The alternative proposed by the applicant is the one with the least impact to wetlands or surface waters on site;*

The proposal does not follow the guidelines of the *Public Access Plan for New Hampshire Lakes, Ponds, and Rivers* (NH Office of State Planning, 1991). The existing proposal, with double ramp and over 40 total parking spaces on a 3+ acre site is very intensive development and not appropriate for this small lot. There certainly are less impacting and more appropriate alternatives that still provide more public access, including boat access, to Lake Sunapee. One example would be a car-top only access, which would significantly reduce wetland and shoreland impacts at this site. This option was previously proposed by NHF&G and then dropped.

- *The impact of a proposed project on quantity or quality of surface and ground water; (and)*
- *The impact of the proposed project on the values and functions of the total wetland or wetland complex;*

Lake Sunapee embodies a number of values and functions, among them is recreation. More importantly, Lake Sunapee is a municipal water supply in addition to supplying individual households. The short and long term impacts on water quality from intense site development, additional impervious pavement, motorized vehicles, and increased powerboat traffic have not been addressed adequately in the Wild Goose proposal.

The DES Wetlands and Shoreland Bureaus have worked hard to improve the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act and wetland protections. But if state agencies are not required to comply, and regulating agencies do not follow evaluation standards, then regulations become ineffective. State agencies, particularly those charged with the management and protection of natural resources, should be *setting the example* for compliance, for regulatory process and for protecting our resources. That is not happening in this case.

Sincerely,