



State of New Hampshire

GENERAL COURT

CONCORD

MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Chuck Morse (Dist. 22), Chair
Drinking Water and Ground Water Trust Fund Advisory Commission
RSA 485-F:4 (SB 380, Chapter 11 of 2016)

From: Representative Pat Bushway (Rock. 21), Chair
Commission on Drinking Water
RSA 485-F:6 (HB 495, Chapter 329 of 2019)

Date: March 10, 2020

Re: Support of the proposed regional water system interconnection between the cities of Dover and Portsmouth at Dover Point and Newington

The Commission on Drinking Water, created last year by HB 495 (Chapter 329), is established to plan for long-term goals and requirements for drinking water on the seacoast. This letter is submitted by the Commission in support of the proposed regional water system interconnection between the cities of Dover and Portsmouth at Dover Point and Newington. The purpose of this project is to enhance water system resiliency by providing a connection between existing regional water systems in the communities of Rochester, Somersworth, Rollinsford, and Dover to the north of the proposed connection and the communities of Newington, Portsmouth, New Castle, Greenland, Rye, North Hampton, Hampton, and Seabrook to the south. The total population served by this project 66,688 in the northern communities and 80,760 in the south for a total of 147,448. The Dover Point connection will not be a main source of water for any of the effected communities, but rather will serve as a back-up system in the event of an emergency.

This project is on the list of projects under consideration for funding from the trust fund, and this letter is to request that it be moved to a higher priority and be given consideration for grant funding. The reason for that is to enable the water pipe to be installed in conjunction with the pending bicycle/pedestrian bridge construction at Dover Point by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT). The pipe would be installed on the underside of the bridge and connected to the Dover and Portsmouth municipal drinking water systems making water available to respond to emergencies to the north or south of the connection. Installing the pipe as part of the bridge construction project and in coordination with the DOT timeline is the most cost-effective method to meet this requirement. A grant from the trust fund would enable this project to be undertaken in the most efficient and economical manner to benefit the entire seacoast public drinking water system infrastructure.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this project: Pat.Bushway@leg.state.nh.us