

RELEASE: GOVERNOR SUNUNU INEXPLICABLY VETOES UNANIMOUSLY SUPPORTED BIPARTISAN BILL

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CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – Yesterday, Governor Sununu vetoed his first bill of the 2021 session, House Bill 184, relative to operation of personal watercraft around the marshlands of the Rye estuaries and a small portion of the mudflats in the back channel in New Castle. Following the veto of this completely bipartisan, noncontroversial bill, **Representative Kate Murray (D-New Castle)** released the following statement:

“It would be hard to find a less controversial, more bipartisan piece of legislation. House Bill 184 was designed to protect environmentally sensitive areas from damage due to jet skis in a very small portion of the back channel of New Castle and in the narrow estuaries of Rye. It was simply intended to afford protection to areas where birds nest and fish spawn, and where people participate in non-invasive recreational activities. HB 184 was originally introduced last year as House Bill 1380, passed 20-0 out of committee, passed the house on a voice vote, and was unfortunately stalled in the Senate due to the pandemic. This year, HB 184 passed the House and the Senate unanimously every step of the way.

It is hard to imagine that Governor Sununu understood the content or intent of the legislation better than the dozens of legislators and stakeholders who have worked on this for two years and ignored the voices of the constituents who spoke in favor of this measure. I have no idea why he vetoed this overwhelmingly bipartisan piece of legislation designed to protect recreational users and these fragile environments.”

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