State Of New Hampshire
By His Excellency
John H. Lynch, Governor

Executive Order Number 2011-2

An Order Establishing a Commission To Develop a Water Sustainability Plan for the State of New Hampshire

WHEREAS, the State of New Hampshire has abundant water resources with nearly 17,000 miles of rivers and streams, 1,000 lakes, 238 miles of ocean and estuarine coastline, wetlands, and groundwater sufficient to supply wells and base flow in surface waters; and

WHEREAS, all New Hampshire residents and visitors rely on New Hampshire's water for their water supply; and

WHEREAS, the high quality of life in New Hampshire fosters economic and population growth that, in turn, leads to in an increased demand for water and changes to the landscape, both of which have the potential to significantly impact water resources; and

WHEREAS, providing safe, clean water and managing water quantity relies on water infrastructure such as wastewater, drinking water and storm water systems that are generally aging and in need of significant investment; and

WHEREAS, water is essential to manufacturers and businesses throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, tourism in the state is centered on our beautiful lakes, rivers and coastline and many other water-related activities; such as skiing, snowmobiling and fishing; and

WHEREAS, the affordability of needed improvements to our water infrastructure is a concern for users and for the regulated community; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire's government has a long history of planning for, protecting and managing water resources to ensure the State's continued beauty and prosperity;

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN H. LYNCH, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, by the authority invested in me by Part II, Article 41 of the Constitution of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby establish a Water Sustainability Commission, as follows:

1. The Commission shall be known as the Water Sustainability Commission. The Commission shall study and evaluate the quality, availability, and sustainable use of surface water and groundwater, including waters that are at risk of impairment, in order to identify and prioritize actions necessary to ensure that both the quantity and quality of water are protected, and the state's water resources are managed in a sustainable manner so as to protect New Hampshire's economy and quality of life.

2. The Commission shall also evaluate existing and future needs for water supply, wastewater disposal and storm water management in order to make recommendations concerning the infrastructure, investment and other measures necessary for the continued availability of clean water supplies for businesses, individuals and communities. The Commission shall also provide recommendations on how to build public awareness, and public and municipal support for the actions and priorities it identifies.

3. The Governor shall appoint 15 members, including from the public, state and local government, business and industry, and the environmental and conservation communities.

4. The Governor shall designate the chairperson and vice-chairperson. Members of the Commission shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as original appointments were made.

5. The Commission shall meet at the call of the chair.

6. The Commission shall provide an opportunity for public input during its study, which shall include at least one public hearing in each of the Executive Council Districts. The Commission shall also seek input from a broad range of organizations and interests that are concerned with the availability and sustainable use of water.

7. The Department of Environmental Services shall be the lead agency in providing administrative assistance to the Commission, and all other state agencies shall cooperate with the Commission and provide such information, data, testimony and other assistance as requested. The Commission shall be allowed to accept grants and other assistance to support its work upon the approval of the Governor and Council.

8. The Commission shall submit to the Governor a final report on or before June 1, 2012.

Given under my hand and seal at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this 22nd day of April, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and eleven.