



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

February 8, 2010

The Honorable Edward Butler, Chairman
House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 302
Concord, NH

Re: HB 1180 relative to the use of clotheslines

Dear Chairman Butler and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Environmental Services is pleased to support efforts to facilitate the use of clotheslines and drying racks and minimize barriers that restrict the use of such devices whenever practical and possible.

Air drying clothes in the out-of-doors is an effective way to reduce energy use. Unfortunately, there are community entities, homeowners' associations, and landlords that restrict the use of clotheslines and/or drying of laundry outside. Project Laundry List, one of DES's Partnership organizations, estimates that nationwide about 20 percent of the population lives in an area that restricts or bans certain outdoor activities, including outside drying of clothes.

Efforts to identify such areas in New Hampshire and remove these restrictions whenever possible may encourage more people to air dry their clothes, resulting in energy and cost savings. The typical clothes dryer accounts for an estimated 10 percent of the electricity used by a household (according to Project Laundry List¹), costing approximately \$18.00 per month for a family of four (according to PSNH²). DES encourages the use of clotheslines and drying racks to not only save New Hampshire citizens money and energy, but to reduce the emissions of carbon dioxide and other pollutants associated with the production of electricity.

Thank you for the opportunity to support the use of clotheslines and drying racks. Please call me at 271-2958 or Kathleen Brockett, Supervisor of the Education/Outreach Unit, at 271-6284 or kathleen.brockett@des.nh.gov if you have any questions or would like further information.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Rep. Steven Lindsey (HB 1180 sponsor)

¹ <http://www.laundrylist.org/>

² <http://www.psnh.com/Residential/ReduceBill/Applianceusage.asp>