The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner
March 23, 2010

The Honorable Naida Kaen, Chairman,
House Science, Technology, and Energy Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 304
Concord, NH 03301

Re: SB 327 relative to disclosure of electric service energy sources and environmental characteristics

Dear Chairman Kaen and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Environmental Services (DES) is pleased to testify in support of Senate Bill 327, relative to disclosure of electric service energy sources and environmental characteristics.

Last year, pursuant to SB 97, the *Committee to Study the Standards and Procedures by which Certain Information Should be Provided to Electrical Service Customers* was created to examine the options for environmental disclosure with all stakeholders to try to develop consensus on the most appropriate approach. The committee determined[1] that:

1. Electric service customers should have the opportunity to learn about both the energy sources and the environmental characteristics of their provider's electric service and how that electric service compares with appropriate regional averages. Such information should be available in electronic form and as part of mailings.
2. By allowing for flexible Public Utilities Commission (PUC) administration of the disclosure program, electricity providers should not find it a burden to provide consumers with this information. Providers indicated that it would be possible to meet such requirements without additional cost to customers.
3. New Hampshire's neighboring states have similar disclosure requirements. A number of electricity providers in New Hampshire already participate in disclosure programs in their roles as providers in neighboring states.
4. The goals of SB 97 should be furthered by the introduction of legislation establishing a disclosure program and granting the PUC the authority to develop and approve the details of the program.

We urge you to pass this legislation that will authorize the PUC to approve a standard format for providers of electricity to use in providing information to their customers regarding the energy sources and environmental characteristics of their electric service, as recommended by the SB 97 Study Committee. Should you have further questions or need additional information, please contact Robert R. Scott, Director, Air Resources Division (271-1088, robert.scott@des.nh.gov) or Michael Fitzgerald (271-6390, michael.fitzgerald@des.nh.gov) Administrator, Technical Services Bureau.

Sincerely,

Michael Nobles, Ass't. Comm.
for Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: SB 327 sponsors

[1] Please see Committee Report at http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/statstudcomm/reports/1976.pdf

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