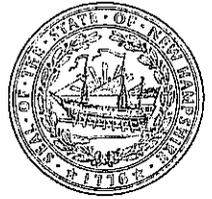




The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner
February 11, 2010

The Honorable Betsi L. DeVries, Chairman and Members of the Committee
Senate Public and Municipal Affairs Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 103
Concord, NH 03301

Re: SB 456 relative to energy conservation in new building construction

Dear Chairman DeVries and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Environmental Services (DES) is pleased to testify in support of Senate Bill 456, relative to energy conservation in new building construction.

Improved administration and enforcement of building codes should conserve greater amounts of energy, leading to better air quality. In fact, maximizing energy efficiency in buildings was a key recommendation of the "New Hampshire Climate Action Plan"¹ identified by the Climate Change Policy Task Force. In combination with other strategies, maximizing energy efficiency in buildings will help to reduce New Hampshire's annual greenhouse gas emissions. The Plan states:

"The operation of buildings accounts for 48 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States according to the Pew Center on Climate Change. In New Hampshire, 32.3 percent of the net energy consumed in 2005 was used to heat buildings and structures, and another 36.6 percent was used to generate electricity, much of which is used in buildings. The construction and operation of buildings, therefore, represents a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. The state can realize substantial reductions in its energy consumption for heat and power by maximizing the thermal and electrical efficiency of all future buildings and extensively retrofitting existing residential, commercial, industrial and municipal buildings. This will lead to significant and direct reductions in energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions. Such actions can begin immediately by implementing the most cost-effective investments in energy efficiency immediately and incorporating more advanced technologies when they become economically viable."

We urge you to pass this legislation that will authorize the PUC to adopt rules relative to the administration and enforcement of building energy codes. 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 Joe Fontaine (271-6794, joseph.fontaine@des.nh.gov) of his staff.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: SB 456 Sponsors

¹ Please see http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/tsb/tps/climate/action_plan/nh_climate_action_plan.htm