



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

February 5, 2015

The Honorable Robert Introne, Chair
House Science, Technology, and Energy Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 304
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: House Bill 615 relative to funding for state energy efficiency programs

Dear Chair Introne and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 615 relative to funding for state energy efficiency programs. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this bill, which makes minor changes to portions of RSA 21-I that will support the ability of state agencies to implement cost-effective energy efficiency projects.

RSA 21-I:19-a states *"It shall be the policy of the state of New Hampshire to maximize the use of economical energy efficient measures in the construction, renovation, and maintenance of buildings owned or leased by the state. Further, it shall be the policy of the state to encourage municipalities to incorporate such measures into their buildings to the greatest extent possible."* This policy has subsequently been supplemented via executive orders¹ and Chapter 328, Laws of the state of New Hampshire 2010², which directed state government to reduce energy usage per square foot of building space and established a statutory goal of reducing overall fossil energy use by state government by 25 percent by 2025.

The changes proposed in HB 615 were developed in consultation with the State Government Energy Committee, which includes representatives from most of the state's property-owning agencies and is co-chaired by DES and the Office of Energy and Planning. These changes will enable the state to more effectively manage our investments in cost-effective energy efficiency measures in state-owned buildings.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact either Rebecca Ohler, Technical Programs Manager (rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov, 271-6749) or Michael Fitzgerald, Assistant Director, Air Resources Division (michael.fitzgerald@des.nh.gov, 271-6390).

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Sponsors of HB 615

¹ <http://sos.nh.gov/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=24566>

² <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/legislation/2010/SB0073.html>