



The State of New Hampshire  
**Department of Environmental Services**



**Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner**

April 8, 2015

The Honorable Jeb Bradley, Chairman  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
State House, Room 100  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: House Bill 205, relative to clean energy districts.

Dear Chairman Bradley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on behalf of the Department of Environmental Services (DES) relative to House Bill 205, which makes changes in the financing of loans by energy efficiency and clean energy districts. DES supports HB 205, as amended by the House, due to its potential to increase investment in clean energy projects.

Numerous studies and reports, including the 2009 *Climate Action Plan*<sup>1</sup> and the 2009 *Additional Opportunities for Energy Efficiency in New Hampshire*<sup>2</sup>, document the significant potential for increasing energy efficiency in existing building stock as well as the broad economic benefit to all rate payers of making such improvements relative to the cost of investing in new energy sources and distribution. Demand for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy is high, but the initial investment necessary to implement projects is often prohibitive. There are not adequate public dollars to meet the current need, but there is strong interest in the private sector in investing in this market. The 2014 *New Hampshire 10-Year State Energy Strategy*<sup>3</sup> highlights this lack of available financing for efficiency projects and the potential for programs such as property assessed clean energy financing to help overcome financial barriers. The changes proposed by HB205 fine-tune existing statute relative to property assessed clean energy districts for commercial properties, thus creating a unique New Hampshire solution to overcome financial barriers to energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for this sector.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have questions or require further information, please contact Craig Wright, Director of the Air Resources Division ([craig.wright@des.nh.gov](mailto:craig.wright@des.nh.gov), 271-1088) or Rebecca Ohler, Administrator of the Technical Services Bureau ([rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov](mailto:rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov), 271-6749).

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack  
Commissioner

cc: HB 205 sponsors

<sup>1</sup> [http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/tsb/tps/climate/action\\_plan/nh\\_climate\\_action\\_plan.htm](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/tsb/tps/climate/action_plan/nh_climate_action_plan.htm)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.puc.state.nh.us/Electric/GDS%20Report/NH%20Additional%20EE%20Opportunities%20Study%202019-09%20-%20Final.pdf>, GDS Associates, Inc.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.nh.gov/oep/energy/programs/documents/energy-strategy.pdf>

[www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)

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