



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 543 relative to the electric renewable portfolio standard

Dear Chair Introne and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 543, which would repeal New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). The Department of Environmental Services (DES) opposes this bill.

New Hampshire is one of twenty-nine states to have an RPS. Adopted in 2007 (HB 873, *An Act establishing minimum renewable standards for energy portfolios*), the RPS was the result of a thorough and deliberate two-year stakeholder effort involving the state's business interests, environmental organizations, utilities, renewable electricity suppliers and developers, and other energy interests. New Hampshire's RPS represents a carefully considered program that was arrived at through this deliberative process and is designed to encourage the development of new renewable resources while preserving vulnerable existing sources. Supporters recognized that renewable energy generation technologies provide fuel diversity to the state and New England. This displacement of fossil fuels by local renewable fuels and resources helps stabilize energy costs by reducing exposure to volatile gas and oil prices. Increased use of renewables also reduces emissions of air pollutants, thereby improving air quality and protecting public health. The resulting widespread support for the RPS was reflected in broad bipartisan support for adoption in the General Court (253 to 37 in the House of Representatives and a unanimous 24-0 vote in the Senate).

Energy supply projects require long-term planning and, therefore, benefit from long-term certainty in the market. Absent such certainty, developers' ability to secure financing supported by anticipated income from the sale of renewable energy certificates is significantly impaired. DES encourages the Science, Technology and Energy Committee to unanimously vote this bill inexpedient to legislate to help restore certainty in New Hampshire's renewable energy markets.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact either Craig Wright, Director of the Air Resources Division (craig.wright@des.nh.gov, 271-1088) or Michael Fitzgerald, Assistant Director (michael.fitzgerald@des.nh.gov, 271-6390).

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Martin Honigberg, Chair, Public Utilities Commission
Sponsors of HB 543