



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner



*Celebrating 25 years of protecting
New Hampshire's environment.*

January 19, 2012

The Honorable James Garrity, Chairman
N.H. House of Representatives
Science, Technology, and Energy Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 304
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: House Bill 1487, AN ACT relative to prior legislative approval for the expenditure of funds for low carbon fuel standards programs.

Dear Chairman Garrity and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on behalf of the Department of Environmental Services (DES) regarding House Bill 1487, which seeks to require prior legislative approval for the expenditure of funds for low carbon fuel standards programs.

DES was recently contacted by Senator Jeb Bradley relative to our participation in talks with eleven other northeastern states regarding the potential for a Clean Fuels Standard (for more information regarding please see <http://www.nescaum.org/topics/clean-fuels-standard> .) Attached is a copy of the DES letter responding to Senator Bradley's questions and explaining the rationale for our participation.

The committee should be aware that these are only preliminary discussions relative to the viability and potential economic opportunities related to such a standard. Understanding that this is a regional initiative that could impact New Hampshire's fuel supply and economics regardless of whether the state participates or not, DES feels it is important to be at the table during these discussions to represent New Hampshire interests. As the attached letter states, we do not believe the department would have the authority to implement such a standard unless it were given prior legislative approval.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill. Should you have further questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Robert R. Scott, Director, Air Resources Division (271-1088, robert.scott@des.nh.gov) or Michael Fitzgerald, Administrator, Technical Services Bureau (271-6390, michael.fitzgerald@des.nh.gov),

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: HB 1487 sponsors

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