



The State of New Hampshire  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

April 28, 2014

The Honorable Russell Prescott, Chairman  
N.H. Senate  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 101  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**Re: House Bill 532, relative to energy efficiency and clean energy districts.**

Dear Chairman Prescott and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on behalf of the Department of Environmental Services (DES) in support of House Bill 532, which seeks to further enable energy efficiency improvements in existing building stock in the state.

Numerous studies and reports, including the 2009 Climate Action Plan<sup>1</sup> and the 2009 GDS Associates, Inc.'s *Additional Opportunities for Energy Efficiency in New Hampshire*,<sup>2</sup> document the high potential for increasing energy efficiency in existing building stock as well as the cost effectiveness of making such improvements relative to the cost of investing in new energy sources and distribution. Likewise, demand for energy efficiency improvements 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. DES supports this bill due to its potential to increase investment in clean energy projects, including attracting private funding to these projects. Additionally, some investment is likely to result in the development of new renewable sources of energy which could then participate in New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard's Renewable Energy Certificate market.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill. Should you have further questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Rebecca Ohler, Transportation and Energy Programs Manager (271-6749, [rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov](mailto:rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov)).

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack  
Commissioner

cc: HB 532 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>