



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



**Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner**

January 28, 2015

The Honorable James Belanger, Chairman  
House Municipal and County Government Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 301  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**Re: House Bill 191, relative to privately financed projects in energy efficiency and clean energy districts.**

Dear Chairman Belanger 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 191, which seeks to further enable energy efficiency improvements in existing building stock in the state by exempting projects which are privately financed in energy efficiency and clean energy districts from dollar amount caps and requirements for a loan loss reserve.

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. Demand for energy efficiency improvements is high, but the initial investment necessary to implement projects is often prohibitive. The 2014 *New Hampshire 10-Year State Energy Strategy* highlights the lack of available financing for efficiency projects and the potential for programs such as property assessed clean energy financing to help overcome financial barriers. 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 private investment in clean energy projects.

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, Technical Programs Manager (271-6749, [rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov](mailto:rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov)) or Michael Fitzgerald, Assistant Director, Air Resources Division (271-6390, [Michael.fitzgerald@des.nh.gov](mailto:Michael.fitzgerald@des.nh.gov)).

Sincerely,

*for*   
Thomas S. Burack  
Commissioner

cc: HB 191 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%202-19-09%20-%20Final.pdf>

