



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

April 1, 2015

The Honorable Jeb Bradley, Chairman
N.H. Senate
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 100
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: House Bill 382 establishing a committee to study facilitating private investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy

Dear Chairman Bradley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on behalf of the Department of Environmental Services (DES) regarding House Bill 382, which seeks to establish a study committee to study ways to facilitate private investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy. DES supports this bill.

Numerous studies and reports have documented the potential for capturing additional, cost-effective energy efficiency in businesses and homes across the state, including the 2009 *New Hampshire Climate Action Plan*, 2009 *Additional Opportunities for Energy Efficiency in New Hampshire*, the 2011 *Independent Study of Energy Policy Issues*, and the 2014 *New Hampshire 10-Year State Energy Strategy*. All of these documents recognize that there are not adequate public dollars to incentivize or facilitate capture of more than a small portion of that available efficiency. Energy efficiency is the lowest cost energy resource available in New Hampshire and capturing that efficiency benefits all rate payers by reducing peak demand and eliminating or deferring the need for additional generating resources and/or distribution upgrades.

Private investors have signaled their interest in investing in energy efficiency. However, that interest has not yet translated to significant investment in New Hampshire. The proposed committee could benefit all rate payers by determining how to attract this investment to New Hampshire.

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 Craig Wright, Director, Air Resources Division (271-1088, craig.wright@des.nh.gov) or Rebecca Ohler, Administrator, Technical Services Bureau (271-6749, Rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov).

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: HB 382 sponsors

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