



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



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

January 13, 2016

The Honorable Andrew Christie, Chairman  
Executive Departments and Administration Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 308  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**Re: Senate Bill 335-FN-A, transferring administration of the building code review board to the office of professional licensure and certification, and relative to appeals of decisions of the state fire marshal**

Dear Chairman Christie and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony relative to Senate Bill 335-FN-A. This bill transfers administration of the building code review board ("BCRB") to the office of professional licensure and certification, and makes an appropriation to support the BRCB's work. The bill also changes appeals of decisions of the state fire marshal on state fire code matters from the state building code review board to the state board of fire control. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) takes no position on the transfer of administration or changing the appeals process. NHDES supports making an appropriation to support the work of the BCRB.

NHDES is supportive of advancing building energy codes as a way to reduce energy use and avoid energy costs in the commercial and residential building sectors. The BCRB is an all-volunteer board that is charged with reviewing and evaluating building codes, inclusive of building energy codes, conducting public hearings, and making recommendations for adoption of the new codes to the New Hampshire General Court. The work of the BCRB is invaluable in the building code adoption process. For this all-volunteer board to accomplish its work, and to enable stakeholder participation throughout the process, sustained administrative support is necessary, thus NHDES supports the suggested appropriation for this biennium.

Energy efficiency is the lowest-cost energy resource and constructing new buildings to the most efficient codes is particularly cost effective. For instance, the BCRB has recommended adoption of new building energy codes based on the International Code Council 2015 model energy code that, if ratified and implemented, are expected to save the owner/occupants of new homes in our state \$7,000 to \$11,000 over a thirty-year period. The simple payback

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associated with the upfront investments would occur in four to five years<sup>1</sup>. Many of the energy-efficiency measures will continue to save money and provide additional comfort beyond this time frame.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB 335-FN-A. 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](mailto:craig.wright@des.nh.gov)) or Rebecca Ohler, Administrator of the Technical Services Bureau (271-6749, [rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov](mailto:rebecca.ohler@des.nh.gov)).

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Burack  
Commissioner

cc: HB 335 sponsors: Sens. Boutin, Little, Watters, Reps. Duarte, Kotowski  
John Barthelmes, Commissioner, DOS

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<sup>1</sup> US DOE (2015). National Cost-Effectiveness of the Residential Provisions of the 2015 IECC, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, [https://www.energycodes.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2015IECC\\_CE\\_Residential.pdf](https://www.energycodes.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2015IECC_CE_Residential.pdf)