



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

April 18, 2018

The Honorable Sharon Carson
Chair, Executive Departments and Administration Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 101
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: HB 1472, AN ACT relative to the state building code provisions for energy conservation in new building construction

Dear Chair Carson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 1472, as amended by the House, relative to the state building code provisions for energy conservation in new building construction. The bill directs the state Building Code Review Board (BCRB) to prescribe by rule and make available to the public a simplified residential energy code compliance form, and also repeals RSA 155-D, relative to energy conservation in new building construction. As the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) is supportive of efforts to simplify the regulatory environment and reduce the administrative burden on all parties, NHDES supports this bill.

The state building energy code, defined in RSA 155-A:1, is intended to ensure that New Hampshire homes and businesses meet a minimum level of energy efficiency. New Hampshire homes and businesses need to be safe and comfortable spaces across a wide variety of weather conditions during all four seasons. Constructing energy-efficient buildings is the most cost effective means to achieve this outcome. Energy-efficiency measures also have a direct, positive impact on public health and the quality of our natural environment as reducing energy demand leads to lower air pollution emissions.

This bill seeks to clarify the administration of the state building code by repealing the entirety of RSA 155-D, Energy Conservation in New Buildings. This statute was first adopted in 1979. The statewide building code, including more modern provisions related to energy efficiency and conservation, was subsequently adopted in 2002 and codified in RSA 155-A. This bill transfers the necessary energy code administrative provisions in 155-D to 155-A. Therefore, this bill serves to simplify overlapping statutes.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on HB 1472. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact either Chris Skoglund, Climate and Energy Program

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Manager, (Christopher.Skoglund@des.nh.gov, 271-7624) or Rebecca Ohler, Administrator,
Technical Services Bureau (Rebecca.Ohler@des.nh.gov, 271-6749).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Scott", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert R. Scott
Commissioner

cc: Sponsors of HB 1472: Representatives M. MacKay, LeBrun, Ober, Rice, J. MacKay, Le;
Senators Carson, Feltes