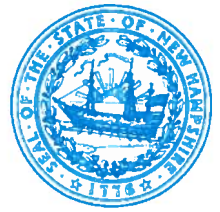




The State of New Hampshire  
**Department of Environmental Services**



**Robert R. Scott, Commissioner**

March 26, 2018

The Honorable Kevin Avard  
Chair, Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
State House, Room 103  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 1796, *An Act relative to the legislative oversight committee on electric utility restructuring* and HB 1488, *An Act establishing a commission to study the public utilities commission's role and scope of duties in a deregulated environment***

Dear Chair Avard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1796 and HB 1488. HB 1796 would rename the legislative oversight committee on electric utility restructuring as the legislative oversight committee to monitor the transformation of delivery of electric services. HB 1488 would establish a commission to study the public utilities commission's (PUC's) role and scope of duties in a deregulated environment. The energy efficiency and renewable energy programs administered by the PUC support the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services' (NHDES) mission of protecting and restoring the environment and public health in New Hampshire. NHDES believes that an informed conversation about energy issues in this time of change in New Hampshire is appropriate and that the revised legislative oversight committee of HB 1796 would be the appropriate body to undertake the study proposed by HB 1488. Therefore, NHDES suggests that the two bills could be combined.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on HB 1796 and HB 1488. Should you have further questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact either Michael Fitzgerald, Assistant Director ([michael.fitzgerald@des.nh.gov](mailto:michael.fitzgerald@des.nh.gov), 271-6390) or Joseph Fontaine, Technical Programs Manager ([joseph.fontaine@des.nh.gov](mailto:joseph.fontaine@des.nh.gov), 271-6794) of the Air Resources Division.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Scott  
Commissioner

cc: Sponsors of HB 1796: Representatives Backus and Richardson; Senator Feltes  
Sponsors of HB 1488: Representative Cali-Pitts