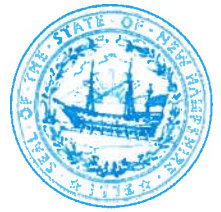




The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

January 24, 2018

The Honorable Richard Barry
Chair, Science, Technology, and Energy Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 304
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 1544, *An Act establishing a committee to identify the requirements needed to commit New Hampshire to a goal of 100 percent renewable energy for electricity by 2040*

Dear Chair Barry and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1544. This bill would establish a committee to identify the requirements needed to commit New Hampshire to a goal of 100 percent renewable energy for electricity by 2040. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) has no position on this bill, but NHDES stands ready to support such a committee if convened.

Cleaner renewable energy resources have the potential to displace out-of-region sources of fossil fuel energy and, in doing so, keeping previously "exported" energy dollars circulating in the New Hampshire and regional economy. In addition, these resources can lead to increased economic development, improved air quality, and a reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases.

The goal envisioned in this legislation would be consistent with New Hampshire's *2009 Climate Action Plan* and the deliberations of the New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) in the development and implementation planning of the *2017 Update to the Regional Climate Change Action Plan*. Such a study would also complement the PUC's current deliberations on topics such as grid modernization, net metering, and the energy efficiency resource standard.

Should you have further questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact either Michael Fitzgerald, Assistant Director (michael.fitzgerald@des.nh.gov, 271-6390) or Chris Skoglund, Climate and Energy Program Manager (christopher.skoglund@des.nh.gov, 271-7624) of the Air Resources Division.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Scott
Commissioner

cc: Sponsors of HB 1544: Representatives Somssich, Moffett; Senator Fuller Clark