



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

January 10, 2018

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

RE: HB 1550, *An Act requiring electric bills to include the cost of compliance with renewable energy standards*

Dear Chair Barry and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1550. This bill would require electric bills to include the cost of compliance with renewable energy standards. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) has concerns with this bill as written. While NHDES supports disclosure of these costs, NHDES is concerned that potential administrative costs of such an effort should be minimized in order to ensure that the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) is used to the fullest extent for clean, renewable energy projects.

The intent of the REF was to dedicate its funds to further develop renewable energy in New Hampshire. HB 1550 states *"The costs for a utility to provide this information shall be recovered by reducing their purchase of renewable energy certificates and/or reducing their payments to the renewable energy fund to the extent needed to cover their costs."* This would reduce the amount of funds available for renewable energy projects. As clean renewable energy supports NHDES' mission of fostering a clean environment, NHDES supports using all available REF funds for renewable energy.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on HB 1550. 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 Joseph Fontaine, Technical Programs Manager (joseph.fontaine@des.nh.gov, 271-6794) of the Air Resources Division.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Scott
Commissioner

cc: Sponsors of HB 1550: Representatives Harrington and McLean