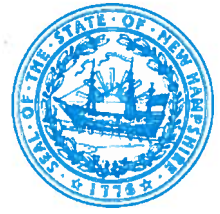




The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

January 9, 2018

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

Re: Senate Bill 367, relative to public utilities commission review of group-host agreements

Dear Chair Avard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Senate Bill 367 (SB 367), relative to the public utilities commission review of net-metering group-host agreements. This bill removes two requirements in RSA 362-A:9, Net Energy Metering, Section XIV that will reduce the administrative burden on the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and electric distribution utilities. As clean renewable energy supports our mission of fostering a clean environment, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) supports this bill.

The intent of group net metering is to allow individuals, whose project sites offer more renewable-energy-generation capacity than they can utilize, to share some of that resource with other customers of the same electric distribution utility. This arrangement is advantageous to the New Hampshire customers who may face physical or financial barriers that prevent their own direct investment in renewable projects.

The changes to the statutory language in RSA 362-A:9, XIV proposed by SB 367 are intended to simplify net metering in New Hampshire by reducing the administrative burden on both the PUC and the electric utilities. NHDES is supportive of efforts like this to improve net metering regulatory requirements while maintaining the integrity of the process as this may lead to additional renewable energy projects in the state.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on SB 367. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact either Chris Skoglund, Climate and Energy Program Manager, Air Resources Division (Christopher.Skoglund@des.nh.gov, 271-7624) or Rebecca Ohler, Administrator, Technical Services Bureau (Rebecca.Ohler@des.nh.gov, 271-6749).

Sincerely,

Robert R. Scott
Commissioner

cc: Sponsors of SB 367: Senators Feltes, Soucy, Fuller Clark