



# State of New Hampshire

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Ms. Debra Howland, Executive Director  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-7319

Re: Docket No. DE 20-092 2021-2023 Triennial Energy Efficiency Plan

Dear Ms. Howland:

As members of the New Hampshire House of Representatives, we would like to weigh in on the implementation of the 2021-2023 New Hampshire Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan. While we appreciate the efforts made by the EESE Board and other stakeholders to construct this three-year plan, the economic impact of Covid-19 to New Hampshire's ratepayers may require a suspension of this docket.

It is no secret that the pandemic has wreaked havoc on the nation's economy, and while New Hampshire's hasn't been hit as hard as many other states, we still see noticeable impacts to many economic sectors—with restaurants among the hardest hit.

Thousands of New Hampshire business and residential ratepayers are currently millions of dollars in arrears on their utility bills. The projected increases to the Systems Benefits Charge (SBC) of approximately \$100 million per year from 2021 to 2023 and in excess of \$300 million in the aggregate will, unfortunately, likely lead to additional arrearages in the future. Now is not the time to impose \$100 million-dollar annual cost-increases on our state's ratepayers with the hopes that we achieve cost savings for everyone at a later date.

The increase in SBC charges will impact everyone differently, but some of the state's largest manufacturers (and other high energy users) will pay hundreds of thousands and in some cases millions of dollars more in their electric bills every year. This represents possibly a 10-15% increase on electricity costs at a time when many businesses, especially restaurants and other entertainment venues, which are high electricity and gas users, are managing substantial reductions in their revenue streams.

Not only will the private sector be impacted. Municipalities will also be facing budget constraints and cannot afford to have their electricity bills go up at this time—even if it means achieving savings down the road. All one needs to do is have a discussion with a select board and/or school board member to understand that their first priority at this time is to manage the current education crisis facing our students. Due to the pandemic, many towns will have to upgrade HVAC systems, cleaning supplies, technology expenses to support remote learning, et al.

Given what we know about the impact to New Hampshire's economy as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic as well as the economic uncertainty in the near, mid, and perhaps long-term, we ask that the PUC indefinitely postpone implementation of the 2021-2023 New Hampshire Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rep. Dick Hinch, House Republican Leader

Rep. Michael Harrington, Ranking Member, House Science, Technology & Energy Committee

Rep. Glen Aldrich, Member, House Science, Technology & Energy Committee

Rep. Troy Merner, Member, House Science, Technology & Energy Committee

Rep. Jeanine Notter, Member, House Science, Technology & Energy Committee

Rep. Russell Ober, Member, House Science, Technology & Energy Committee

Rep. Fred Plett, Member, House Science, Technology & Energy Committee

Rep. Doug Thomas, Member, House Science, Technology & Energy Committee

Rep. Michael Vose, Member, House Science, Technology & Energy Committee