

Campaign for Ratepayers Rights

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The Campaign for Ratepayers Rights was founded in 1983 as a statewide, non-profit organization. We study many aspects of the electric utility industry.

Our concerns have included design of generating plants, fuels used, and related pollution issues, such as mercury emissions and storage of nuclear wastes.

Other areas of interest include regulation/deregulation issues, conservation efforts, allocation of costs over different customer classes, problems with evacuation planning around nuclear plants, and monitoring of radiation exposures.

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Resolution

Whereas, continuation of present patterns of energy production and use present unacceptable adverse consequences, including global warming, serious national security implications, the risk of nuclear accidents and adverse environmental effects, and

Whereas, the citizens of New Hampshire and New England are disproportionately impacted by several of these consequences, including air pollution impacts from the use of fossil fuel as a boiler fuel in Mid-Western power plants; and

Whereas, the benefits promised as a result of moving to a deregulated system for retail electric customers have proven to be minimal or illusory in terms of lowering costs of electricity for consumers, providing meaningful consumer choice, or in assuring a diverse and local mix of supply options:

NOW THEREFORE, the Campaign for Ratepayers' Rights, acting through its Board of Directors, urges the adoption of the following policies by the State of New Hampshire:

1. The state should adopt all reasonable and prudent measures, including financial incentives, to promote the maximum increase in the efficient use of energy in all industrial, commercial, and residential applications.
2. The state should adopt all reasonable and prudent measures, including financial incentives, to advance the use of locally-sited renewable energy options, including wind energy and other solar applications. The state should support the development of renewable and non-polluting energy sources throughout New England, including the Cape Wind project.
3. The State should undertake an investigation into whether the deregulation of electric power to retail customers should be replaced by a return to regulation, including a return to reasonable rate of return ratemaking for electric utilities and a requirement for least cost planning, either independently or as part of a regional reevaluation of the desirability or necessity of a deregulated system.
4. The State should oppose any attempt to increase reliance on atomic reactors. Because of the danger of catastrophic failure, which makes nuclear power uninsurable commercially, the need to avoid production of additional tons of toxic high level nuclear waste (spent nuclear fuel) which must be isolated from the biosphere for hundreds or thousands of years and for which no acceptable disposal solution exists, the risk posed by reactors as pre-positioned potential terrorist targets, and the uneconomic total costs of installing new nuclear capacity, increased use of atomic power is not in the public interest. It is also important to understand that atomic power can't stop or even slow global warming, since the nuclear fuel cycle produces significant CO₂ emissions, and due to high capital cost and long construction time needed to build new reactors, precludes atomic power from ever providing reduced carbon emissions.