RM08-127

## **Housing Action NH**

Building Alliances for Low Income Housing Advocacy

State of New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301

October 27, 2009

Re: Rulemaking Puc 2600-Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund

Dear Chairman Getz, Commissioner Below and Commissioner Ignatius:



Housing Action New Hampshire is a newly-established coalition whose purpose is to work with federal and state policy makers to increase public investment in the development and preservation of affordable housing, to expand access to rental subsidies and to generate strong and consistent support for these programs from New Hampshire's Congressional delegation and our State Legislature.

Please accept the comments below to the proposed rules Puc 2600, as published in the Order of Notice, DRM 08-127 (September 18, 2009) regarding the use of RGGI funds for affordable housing as provided by RSA 125-0:23 II, which states:

"At least 10 percent of the moneys shall be used to assist low-income residential customers, as defined by the commission and in a manner compatible with other low-income programs administered by the commission, to reduce total energy use including heating fuels and to foster the development and retrofitting of highly efficient and affordable housing."

We recommend defining and clarifying "low-income residential customers" and "affordable housing" to ensure that New Hampshire residents 60% of median income or less are eligible for RGGI funds.

Clarifying the eligibility and definition of affordable housing and low income residential customers will support the mandate per RSA 125-O23 III :"to foster the development and retrofitting of highly efficient and affordable housing."

Thank you.

Elissa Margolin, Director Housing Action NH

> Housing Action New Hampshire Director, Elissa Margolin 110 Wibird Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801 elissa@housingactionnh.org