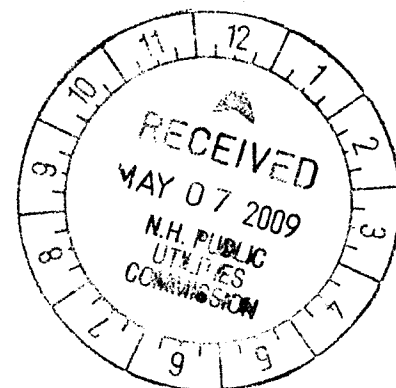


May 5, 2009

Debra Howland, Executive Director
NH Public Utilities Commission
21 So. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301




RE: DE 08-135 PSNH Line Extension Service

Dear Ms. Howland:

As a provider of affordable housing in the State of New Hampshire, I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed line extension fee. The Home Builders & Remodelers Association of New Hampshire recently submitted data to the PUC compiled by the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority demonstrating the impact on homebuyers based on the previous four year's sales trends. As a result, it showed that with price increases of \$1,000, \$2,000, and \$4,000 there was a reduction of affordability to households at 100% of the median income of 4%, 5.3% and 8.3% respectively. This is based on 4 years of new single family detached units sold from 2005 to 2008.

This doesn't take into account the current market and the challenges faced by first time and new home buyers. The impact on first time home buyers in my opinion will be even greater. 2005 to 2008 included some of the best years for many home buyers to qualify for financing given the number and types of loan products available during those times. Today, and likely going forward, the ability for first time home buyers to qualify for a mortgage is much more difficult due to significantly higher down payment requirements. Therefore, any additional cost to the home price makes it that much further from the reach of a first time home buyer.

Sincerely,


Robert Tourigny
Executive Director

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