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Sent: Tuesday, December 22, 2020 8:45 AM

To: PUC: <PUC@puc.nh.gov>

Cc: HouseScienceTechnologyandEnergy@leg.state.nh.us; April Galarza <aprilwriter@gmail.com>; Annie Ropeik <aropeik@nhpr.org>

Subject: Docket No. DE 20-092

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Dear PUC Commissioners,

I'm writing again to request that you approve the 2021-2023 energy efficiency plan as updated by the settlement agreement signed by the Consumer Advocate, the Conservation Law Foundation, Clean Energy New Hampshire, and all four of our electric and natural gas utilities.

I attended (remotely) the hearing on December 21st and am very disappointed in the PUC Staff position and testimony. I was alarmed to learn that NH might be left with no SBC funding nor coordinated plan for energy efficiency if the three year plan is rejected.

We cannot know what the future holds for fossil fuel expansion, nuclear nor renewables in New Hampshire. Will there be a federal mandate for carbon pricing? What we do know is that energy efficiency measures are a bulwark against economic uncertainty and fluctuating fuel prices. I find the PUC Staff position that the financial uncertainties caused by the pandemic is sufficient reason to scale back on energy efficiency very short-sighted and regrettable.

If the PUC Staff think the pandemic is causing financial strain for consumers, it will be a mere blip compared to what is coming if we don't act on climate and meet emission reduction goals. I find it unfortunate that the BIA and some members of the legislature have openly put pressure on the PUC staff with arguments about needing to cut back on energy efficiency because of the pandemic. The truth is that some of these legislators and the BIA have opposed any State support of clean energy goals long before there was a pandemic. This is just their latest very cynical red herring.

I plan to listen into the closing arguments today at 1 PM.

Thank you for accepting my comment on the docket. I hope you will approve the settlement agreement by December 28th at the latest.

Sincerely,
Patricia A Martin
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