

From: Patricia Martin <pmartin2894@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 5, 2021 3:51 PM
To: PUC: <puc@puc.nh.gov>
Subject: Comment on docket DE 20-092

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Dear Ms. Howland,

Please accept my comments on the order issued on docket, DE 20-092. I have shared these comments with the editor of the Keene Sentinel as well. I've been following NH energy policy for nearly 20 years. I can't recall a more hostile environment for clean energy and renewables than the one created by the recent Public Utility Commission Order 26.553, Docket DE 20-092, dated Nov. 12, 2021.

The Governor and his fossil fuel think tank lobbyist friends enthusiastically support enormous pipeline projects, coal plants and transmission lines at ratepayer expense, but investment in energy efficiency that benefits businesses and families directly is described as "theft" or socialism. When the Governor vetoed more than a dozen bi-partisan energy bills that would have expanded net metering and renewable energy in New Hampshire a few years ago, he described his actions as "protecting" ratepayers from corporations that would exploit them. This from a pro-business Governor?

While our Governor purports to be pro-business, it's only certain businesses that he supports. New Hampshire energy policy discourages clean energy business from expanding in New Hampshire because our policies are so unstable that it makes it difficult to develop a business plan or hire employees.

The Public Utilities Commission just issued an order that rolls back ratepayer investment in energy efficiency for businesses and homeowners. Without those energy efficiency reductions, more pipelines and power plants will need to be built. Ratepayers will have to pay for them as well, but this doesn't seem to bother the Governor or the policy advisors he's appointed.

New Hampshire shares utility companies (Eversource, Liberty, Unitil, etc.) with our neighboring New England states. Four of our five neighbors rank in the top 10 most efficient states according to the American Council on Energy Efficient Economy Scorecard (ACEEE). New Hampshire has hovered around a lackluster 20th place for years. Clearly neighboring states have provided utilities with the tools and resources to optimize energy efficiency for their customers.

There will be significant federal money available for shovel ready energy projects when the Build Back Better bill passes. Despite the lack of leadership in Concord, I encourage local energy committees, schools, and municipalities to begin prioritizing energy and transportation projects and plan on applying for those funds. Maybe some of our more progressive clean energy companies and utilities will partner up with school districts for exciting projects like electric school buses?

I also find the complaint in the PUC order about administrative and marketing costs of up to 15% being excessive without justification or explanation. As compared to what industry? Are they supposing that when it comes to energy efficiency, the utilities are supposed to behave as non-profits and market at shareholder expense? What percentage would be acceptable?

I have also contacted my State Senator and Representatives to express my disappointment in the PUC decision on energy efficiency.

Thank you for accepting my comments. I encourage the new PUC Commissioners to overturn the order issued in this docket.

Sincerely,
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