

NH Public Utilities Commission Members:

As the co-founder of one of NH's most rapidly growing small businesses, WoodPellets.com, and I am writing to emphasize the importance of incorporating thermal renewable energy into the NH RPS.

More than one third of the energy utilized in our state is for heating. Consumers and businesses are now turning to renewable heating fuels as a way to save money, to help our environment and to help free us of our dependence on foreign fuels. Consumer savings are substantial – often 50% of their heating costs, and the economic benefits to the region are pronounced. Instead of exporting dollars to the middle east, we're stimulating local harvesting and production.

We cannot meet climate or renewable energy goals in NH, such as have been set forth in the NH Climate Action Plan or in Governor Lynch's endorsement of 25x'25, by focusing on electricity alone. Thermal renewable energy (e.g. biomass, solar, geo) can be included in an RPS through a straight BTU-MWH conversion. This need not be complicated, and it is important to the region, which is heavily dependent on heating oil, that this RPS reflect a comprehensive view of energy (inclusive of heat).

For these reasons, we were pleased that legislature asked the PUC to consider thermal, and we urge the PUC to include thermal energy in the NH RPS it recommends to the Governor and NH Legislature later this year.

Regards,

Jon

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