



Karen Cramton, Sustainable Energy Division Director
 New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
 21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
 Concord, NH 03301-2429

September 7, 2018

Re: 2018 Review of Renewable Portfolio Standard Law, RSA 362-F

Dear Ms. Cramton,

As businesses and employers with significant operations in New Hampshire, we support policies that help to accelerate investment in clean energy in the Granite State. Specifically, we support a strong renewable portfolio standard (RPS) that will drive growth in new local clean energy resources, such as solar, wind, geothermal, small hydro, and more.

A growing number of companies, large and small, are setting goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and invest in clean energy not only because it is the right thing to do, but because it makes good business sense. Clean energy helps businesses cut energy costs, reduce their exposure to the volatility of fossil fuel prices, and stay competitive. New Hampshire's Renewable Portfolio Standard helps businesses compete in a region where other states are strengthening their renewable energy programs and lowering their energy costs.

New England's high electric rates are a concern across the region and local, distributed renewable energy is a key tool in cutting long term costs. The PUC has stated that New Hampshire's RPS constitutes approximately one percent of a typical residential bill.¹ At the same time, the program provides a myriad of unmeasured benefits to our communities through increased price stability, reduced air pollution, local economic development, and improved public health.

We also recognize that New Hampshire is part of a regional electric grid, and our cost challenges lie largely in the high transmission and distribution costs of the entire region.² Local renewable energy

¹ Final Report of the Committee to Study Subsidies for Energy Projects Provided by the Renewable Portfolio Standard: SB 51, Chapter 81:1; Laws of 2017. October 26, 2017. Not available online. For access, contact willner@ceres.org.

² New England's wholesale electricity costs decreased by 51% from 2006-2016, while transmission and distribution costs increased by nearly 400% over the same period, as stated by the New England Power Generators Association in their presentation to the SB 125 Study Committee on 9/12/17. Available: <https://epsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/NH-Study-Committee-on-Electricity-Costs-091217-002.pdf>

investment and energy efficiency are key tools to reduce high transmission costs, shave peak electric demand (when the dirtiest power plants must be turned on), and increase our energy independence.

The benefits to our state's economy from a strong cleantech sector, which includes renewable energy production, could not be clearer. New Hampshire already has more than 13,000 workers employed in the cleantech sector, and those jobs have wages 50% higher than the state average.³ As businesses committed to seeing New Hampshire thrive, we believe that our state should embrace this growing industry as an economic development engine.

As businesses with facilities, employees, and investments in New Hampshire we are proud to support New Hampshire's RPS and encourage the PUC to recommend the continuation and strengthening of the existing program and classes to accelerate our transition to clean, local, renewable energy.

We thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Bruss Project Management
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health
Filtrine
Garland Mill
MegaFood
NEMO Equipment
Outdoor Industry Association
Pax World Funds
Pete & Gerry's Organic Eggs
Petersen Engineering
Stonyfield Farm
Throwback Brewery
Timberland
W.S. Badger Company
Wagner Forest Management
Worthen Industries

For questions or to contact to the signatories directly, please contact Matthew Willner (willner@ceres.org). This letter was co-organized by Ceres, New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility, New Hampshire Clean Tech Council, The Nature Conservancy of New Hampshire, and the Union of Concerned Scientists.

³ NH Clean Tech Council. *The New Hampshire Cleantech Market Report*, February 2015. Available: https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/c6c29c_fdff209bf9384d568f088bb2aefab3e5.pdf