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Director Meredith Hatfield  
NH Office of Energy and Planning  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Director Hatfield and Members of the Energy Advisory Council:

Below is the Generic Letter that Southern NH Planning provided, to send to you.

"I urge you to set a goal in the state energy strategy to reduce the export of our energy dollars from 66% (nearly \$4 billion annually)<sup>1</sup>, to 50% by 2023, retaining over \$1 billion of economic wealth each year in New Hampshire. This goal can be reached by pursuing the following three strategies:

1. Significantly ramp up energy efficiency and conservation through system wide efficiency investments (customer-side and utility/supplier-side), to reduce overall energy use;
2. Replace imported fossil fuel use with locally produced renewable energy, with an emphasis on:
  - a. distributed generation
  - b. utility-scale generation
  - c. thermal and electric fuel switching for heating, cooling, and transportation needs;and,
3. Unleash the private market to finance the infrastructure by minimizing policy risk, sending clear market signals, and better leveraging our minimal available public funds. "

I am not so naïve as to believe that this is possible in our state, the only way to achieve these goals would be to limit the ability of local communities to regulate the utilities/generators/transmission folks, and to significantly reduce the abilities of the environmental groups and agencies. This would be political suicide for any legislator, governor etc., a much better approach would be to reduce significantly the amount of energy required by every individual within our state.

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<sup>1</sup> Vermont Energy Investment Corporation et al. September 30, 2011. [\*Independent Study of Energy Policy Issues.\*](#)

In the past two years I have been constructing homes that use ½ the energy (all energy, electricity & fossil fuels) of typically built homes throughout New Hampshire. The cost increase to produce these homes is typically in the \$2.00 per square foot range, so the cost is not prohibitive. The utilities have been doing a great job of educating builders on how to accomplish this, but without consumer awareness their efforts are falling far short of where we could be today. Without pressure from the consumer, builders are reluctant, very reluctant to build to these standards and 90% are not. This approach addresses new homes only, it is a huge undertaking to address existing homes with cost escalating as a homes age increases.

I would urge you to support programs to retrofit existing housing stock with energy saving updates, and to support the adoption of the 2015 energy code as part of the NH building code as soon as it is adopted. This 2015 energy code will force all builders within the state to construct homes that use 40-50% less energy than what the current code allows. (without the state having to spend a dime) The other part of this equation is the enforcement of these energy codes, or in most cases the failure of enforcement. There needs to be some effort on the states part to properly train the local building inspectors to ensure a level playing field.

If you have any questions regarding these issues I would welcome a discussion with you on them.

Thank you,

Bruce Fillmore