

July 21, 2014

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

Dear Director Hatfield and Members of the Energy Advisory Council:

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)¹, 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.

While some gains have been made in NH the past few years pertaining to weatherization of our buildings and use of renewable energies – our progress has been under -proportionately small as compared to other States and significantly less than what we can feasibly accomplish. NH's economy, jobs, quality of life will all suffer if we do not plan more wisely, and strength education and funding for energy efficiency and alternative sources of energy.

Thank you,

Nancy J. Nichols,

NH Licensed Professional Engineer

Accredited Leader in Energy and Environmental Design

NH Licensed Home Inspector

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