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OFFICE OF ENERGY  
AND PLANNING

24 July 2014

Meredith Hatfield  
Director  
N.H. Office of Energy and Planning  
107 Pleasant Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Ms. Hatfield:

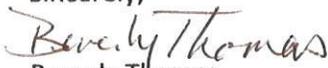
The N.H. Preservation Alliance supports the New Hampshire State Energy Strategy's recommendations related to existing buildings, smart growth principles and renewables. We also support small-scale hydroelectric power generation as it has provided local, sustainable, and renewable energy throughout the history of our state and the development of its economy.

While the marketplace often urges us to consider new as better, data from the U.S. Energy Information Agency shows that the **only buildings more energy efficient than buildings built before 1920 are those built after 2000**. The majority of these pre-1920 buildings were constructed using repairable and often local materials and were sited and designed to minimize heating and cooling requirements. With appropriate retrofits, older buildings can greatly contribute to the vision of a much more energy efficient state by 2025. We believe increased marketing and streamlining efficiency programs will help property owners and municipal leaders advance energy efficiency goals.

We need efficient, sustainable planning as much as efficient, sustainable design. **Investment in older and historic villages and downtowns can reduce demands for transportation, new infrastructure and new building materials**. Compact development and use of existing infrastructure can also help protect important open space, farm land and forest land.

Thank you for your work on this important topic, and please contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

  
Beverly Thomas

Program Director