



48 Grandview Road, Suite #2  
Bow, NH 03304  
603 225 9748  
www.retailnh.com  
shop@retailnh.com



July 25, 2014

Meredith Hatfield, Director  
NH Office of Energy and Planning  
Johnson Hall, 3rd Floor  
107 Pleasant Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
[meredith.hatfield@nh.gov](mailto:meredith.hatfield@nh.gov)

RE: Comments on the State Energy Strategy

Dear Director Hatfield and members of the New Hampshire Energy Advisory Council:

The New Hampshire Retail Association is pleased to offer comments regarding the development of a NH State Energy Strategy. For the past several years, the Association has administered an energy efficiency program, "Giving Power Back", which supports small and mid-size businesses that undertake deep energy retrofits. Our experience in this environment has been very instructive, proving to us that the NH business community values efficiency; and that efficiency is the best means for taking control of and reducing energy costs.

Given our work in this effort, we believe that the first priority for a State Energy Strategy needs to be development of a stronger and more robust commitment to energy efficiency. The focus of State government should be attracting private capital to this sector and ensuring consistency of public policy on this front. To the latter point, one of the most significant obstacles the Association has confronted in our energy efficiency program has been the on-again, off-again State policy regarding energy efficiency. Over the past 3 or 4 years, signals from State government have been confusing and sometimes inconsistent. This creates the risk that business owners, not seeing consistency in State energy policy, could become reluctant to participate for fear of a changing set of rules and expectations.

The NH Retail Assoc has reviewed the formal comments submitted by the NH Clean Tech Council and shares many of the underlying principles that the Council has advanced. In particular, the Council's call for a strategy designed to keep more NH energy dollars in the NH economy is a compelling and important goal that we believe must be incorporated into any long-term plan. This goal not only offers a measuring stick toward success, but also amplifies the important role that energy plays in our economy and the opportunity to stimulate economic development with smart strategies.

As the process to complete a long-term State Energy Strategy advances, the NH Retail Assoc is very willing to assist the Office of Energy and Planning and the State Energy Advisory Council in their work. We look forward to the plan's development and hope to have the opportunity to more fully inform our membership about the Strategy later this year, once it is complete.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these brief comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy C. Kyle".

Nancy C. Kyle  
President/CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Holden".

Amanda Holden  
Energy Efficiency Program Director