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September 1, 2014

Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Hassan:

I am pleased to deliver the *New Hampshire Energy Strategy* pursuant to RSA 4:E. Senate Bill 191 of 2013 requires the Office of Energy and Planning (OEP), in consultation with the State Energy Advisory Council and with public input, to prepare a 10-year energy strategy for the State. OEP and the Council benefited from the hundreds of oral and written public comments as we developed recommendations to guide decision-making about New Hampshire's energy future. OEP also contracted with Navigant Consulting, Inc. for technical and analytical assistance.

The final strategy, all public comments received, and all presentations and materials presented to the Council are available on OEP's website at <http://www.nh.gov/oep/energy/programs/SB191.htm>.

OEP wishes to thank the members of the Advisory Council: Senator Martha Fuller Clark, Senator Bob Odell, Representative Beatriz Pastor, Representative Charles Townsend, Representative Herbert Vadney, DES Commissioner Thomas Burack and PUC Chairman Amy Ignatius. We appreciate all of the time, energy and insights they provided as well as their attendance at the Council's meetings and at the evening public hearings around the State. OEP also wishes to thank the staff from DES and the PUC who provided assistance during the strategy development and at public hearings. OEP is grateful to all of the citizens and stakeholders who participated in developing this Energy Strategy. Dozens of people attended each of the Council's public meetings and the seven evening public hearings around the State. OEP also received over 100 written public comments that provided helpful input and suggestions during the development of both the draft and final documents.

These are exciting times in the energy arena. Technology is bringing new energy sources and tools to market, consumers and businesses have new options for how to heat and cool their buildings, transportation options are increasing, and clean energy resources are helping to grow a local energy economy in our state. However, we also face energy challenges. Energy costs challenge our state and its residents economically, and the regions within our state often face different energy issues including access to diverse fuels. Many energy issues are outside of the State's direct control, which makes our work at the regional level so important.

The Energy Strategy focuses on four main areas that are within the State's control: modernizing our electric grid; increasing efficiency; continuing to diversify our fuel supply with local sources when possible; and increasing transportation choices. As world energy markets become increasingly competitive and New Hampshire's population ages, these issues will be even more important to our success.

We hope that this Energy Strategy is a useful tool as the Legislature, state agencies, municipalities, businesses, non-profits and citizens make future decisions about energy programs and policies. It will take a focused effort to implement the recommendations in this Strategy, with the continued participation of the public and all stakeholders.

I would also like to recognize the efforts of the OEP staff members who helped to develop the Energy Strategy, especially Energy Analyst Brandy Chambers, Deputy Director Karen Cramton, and OEP's intern from Plymouth State University, Jonathan Loos.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like more information.

Respectfully submitted,



Meredith A. Hatfield, Director

cc: Senator Chuck Morse, Senate President
Representative Terie Norelli, House Speaker
Representative David Borden, Chairman, House Science, Technology and Energy Committee
Senator Russell Prescott, Chairman, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
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