

July 23, 2014

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

RE. NH Energy Strategy

Dear Director Hatfield and Members of the Energy Advisory Council:

Please consider that there is no greater threat to more citizens and many species than climate change resulting from our dependence on fossil fuels. Not only is it essential that this plan drive significant reductions in fossil fuel burning but it should address the need for revenues to pay for the rising costs of weather related disasters. Each year more NH communities are faced with cruel climate change roulette as increasingly violent storms wipe out infrastructure, homes and businesses. One of the shortcomings of the current price structure is that the "true" cost of coal and oil is underwritten by taxpayers who are saddled with such hidden costs as the health effects of pollution and the increasing storm damages. If oil sold at its genuine cost to society, motorists would be inclined to switch to more energy-efficient transportation. A carbon fee would discourage coal-fired electricity, help offset some of the local costs and promote alternatives such as wind and solar power.

As a retired energy auditor and solar contractor I can assure you that there are significant opportunities to save billions of BTU's in our buildings and to generate many gigawatts of clean renewable energy locally which will provide local jobs and reduce our dependence on imported (to our state) fossil fuels.

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 strategies:

1. Significantly accelerate energy efficiency and conservation through system wide efficiency investments (customer-side and utility/supplier-side), to reduce overall energy use;
2. Consider carbon fees starting with the dirtiest fossil fuel coal and phase in the fees for all fossil fuels within 10 years;
3. Replace imported fossil fuel use with locally produced renewable energy, with an emphasis on:
 - a. distributed generation, micro grids for improved resilience
 - b. utility-scale generation
 - c. thermal and electric fuel switching for heating, cooling, and transportation needs;and,

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

4. Unleash the private market to finance the infrastructure by minimizing policy risk, sending clear market signals, and better leveraging our minimal available public funds.

Thank you,

John Kondos

PO Box 584
Spofford, NH 03462