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Meredith A. Hatfield, Director
NH Office of Energy and Planning
Governor Hugh J. Gallen State Office Park
Johnson Hall, Third Floor
107 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

24 July 2014

Via email to Meredith.hatfield@nh.gov; brandy.chambers@nh.gov

Dear Meredith,

I am pleased to provide comments on the Draft State Energy Strategy on behalf of New Hampshire Audubon. We are a statewide non-governmental organization dedicated to protecting New Hampshire's environment for wildlife and for people.

Firstly, we would like to express our appreciation to you, the Energy Advisory Council, and Navigant for the time, expertise, and effort involved in producing the Draft Strategy. Members of our staff and Environmental Policy Committee have reviewed the draft and provide the following comments.

We strongly support the Vision outlined in the Draft Strategy. However, we feel that the Summary would benefit from an introductory sentence or two that addresses energy in more general terms. Perhaps something like "In 2025, a broad range of clean, economical energy sources are available to New Hampshire consumers." It would also be helpful to include a bit of clarification regarding "a cleaner, more sustainable and resilient energy system," since this phrase could be interpreted differently by different readers.

In keeping with the directive in SB191 that the Strategy "minimize negative impacts to the economy, the environment, and the natural beauty of our state," we would like to see a statement regarding such impacts included in the Vision. Such a statement could be a final paragraph of the Summary or a separate *Impacts* section following *Transportation Options*. We propose the following wording for such a statement:

The selection of appropriate energy scenarios is grounded in environmental and public health considerations ranging from energy extraction and generation to ultimate use. Environmentally sound energy choices minimize negative impacts to air, water, land, wildlife, and scenic resources.

In the Introduction, we suggest changing “the possibility of alternative resources” to “the potential contribution of alternative resources” on the third line below Figure 1.1.

We are pleased that recommended strategies include numerous examples from other states. New Hampshire can benefit greatly by adopting strategies that have a proven record of success elsewhere. We are also pleased that the Strategy has drawn many recommendations from the 2009 New Hampshire Climate Action Plan, and hope that inclusion in the present document will lead to their implementation.

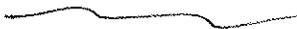
We strongly support the emphasis on energy efficiency and grid modernization as high priority strategies. Increased financing opportunities for weatherization of existing housing stock and municipal, commercial, and industrial buildings will provide economic, environmental, and public health benefits for generations to come. Grid modernization, in particular investment in Smart Grid infrastructure, provides consumers with greater awareness of and control over household energy use and the associated costs.

In the introductory paragraph on *Fuel Choice and Availability*, we would like to see acknowledgement that the significant social and environmental costs of extracting and transporting fossil fuels provide additional justification for reducing dependence on these fuel sources.

The final State Energy Strategy will be an important step forward for New Hampshire, but its ultimate impact will depend on implementation. We hope that the agency actions and legislative initiatives required to move forward with the strategies outlined will quickly follow completion of the final document. To that end, we recommend that the Energy Advisory Council identify and commit to specific goals in each of the resource areas for action before the first Strategy update in three years.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Draft Strategy, and look forward to working with the administrative, legislative, and executive branches of government and our colleagues in the non-governmental sector toward an efficient and sustainable energy future.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Bartlett

President