

July 23, 2014

NH Office of Energy and Planning
C/o of Brandy.Chambers@nh.gov

Re: NHFB Comments on Draft Energy Strategy Document

New Hampshire Farm Bureau (NHFB) has long-standing policy supporting the development of renewable energy and the use of energy efficiency measures to reduce our dependency on fossil fuel. NHFB policy also supports the availability of low interest energy conservation loans, the development of biofuel sources and products, smart grid infrastructure and net metering options. We are of the challenges encouraged where these are addressed in the draft document. We also note and support the recognition in the draft of the transportation energy challenges faced by rural residents.

We believe the draft document is missing the following:

State law provides general guidance for the state's energy policies. Key laws and constitutional requirements should be included under "Plans & Policies" sections in the document, particularly RSA 378:37 which requires we ensure the "lowest reasonable cost while providing for the reliability and diversity of energy sources; the protection of the safety and health of the citizens, the physical environment of the state, and the future supplies of nonrenewable resources." RSA 374-F:3 sets forth several broad public policy goals for electric utilities. These principles call for full and fair competition, benefits for all consumers, protection of low-income consumers, environmental improvement, increased commitment to renewable energy resources, and investments and incentives for energy efficiency. Article 6-a in our State Constitution restricts the use of certain revenues to our highways. We believe including these in the strategy document are particularly important to all of us as consumers.

A more specific list of the currently installed in-state power generation capacity, to include the wood-fired power plants, and options for keeping these facilities operating.

More specifics on net metering options and a look at these against feed-in tariff options.

A section on addressing energy security issues for the state.

In closing, we wish to address our support for comments made at the Portsmouth public meeting which voiced the need for predictability and stability in programming and law in order to attract the investment required to move forward in a real meaningful way. We would like to see this clearly addressed in the strategy document.

Submitted on behalf of NHFB,

Robert Johnson, II, Policy Director

New Hampshire Farm Bureau (NHFB) is a non-profit federation, established in 1916, of New Hampshire's 10 county Farm Bureau organizations consisting of over 3,000 Farm Bureau member families statewide. NHFB is dedicated to advocating for and educating the public about agriculture. NHFB is a general farm organization where the members establish policy and direction through a member driven policy development process.