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Ms. Meredith Hatfield
Director, NH Office of Energy and Planning
107 Pleasant St.
Concord NH 03301

Dear Director Hatfield and Members of the Energy Advisory Council:

If you had 30 seconds to summarize the thrust of the NH State Energy Strategy, what would you say? If you had to persuade a key member of the legislature about the importance of this plan to the state's economic future on an elevator ride from the 1st to the 3rd floor of the Legislative Office Building, could you do it?

The DRAFT state energy strategy prepared by Navigant under your direction is a comprehensive and highly technical assessment of NH's current energy usage, and its future potential. What the DRAFT lacks is a single, compelling, overarching goal that can succinctly capture the essence of the plan, and against which we can easily measure our 10-year progress.

I am not the first to suggest that **this goal should be a metric related to retention of energy expenditures in the state**. As the NH Clean Tech Council and others commenting on this draft plan have shown, a realistic and achievable set of actions can lead to the retention of \$1 billion in annual energy expenditures over the 10-year horizon of the plan, thus reducing the outflow of citizen and business wealth from 66% of total annual energy expenditures to 50% by 2025.

This goal lends itself to a clear set of actions framed around 1) the reduction in overall energy use (efficiency and conservation) and 2) the generation of the electric, thermal and transportation energy we use from sources we control and do not have to import (renewables and fuel switching). This should be the primary focus of the plan. All tangible public benefits of a progressive energy strategy – job creation, resurgent and sustainable development, greenhouse gas emission reductions, environmental benefits, and mostly importantly economic self-determination – will flow directly from this goal. It can be easily measured, tracked and reported.

This is simple, and compelling! Use less energy, and of the energy we use – produce as much as possible here at home. What policy maker or opinion leader could be opposed to this, and to the private/public sector initiative such a strategy would unleash if we truly committed ourselves to it?

As the council and consulting team complete their work in the next two months, I hope you will seriously consider framing the plan around this simple and elegant goal. The resulting plan will be easier for NH citizens to understand, more compelling for people to support, and as a result, more likely to be accomplished.

Sincerely,



Charles R. Niebling