



THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



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COMMISSIONER

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July 24, 2014

Meredith Hatfield, Director
NH Office of Energy & Planning
Johnson Hall, 3rd Floor
107 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

RE: NH State Energy Strategy

Dear Ms. Hatfield,

Please consider this letter as a request from the NH Department of Transportation to consider the merits of rail service when finalizing the New Hampshire State Energy Strategy. We believe that rail can provide many positive benefits to the State, such as helping reduce the State's energy use from the transportation sector, providing a more robust transportation network, and helping to enhance the State's tourism network. Based on the aforementioned and numerous other benefits of the State's rail network, we therefore ask that your office consider the contributions of rail within your strategy.

The Department's 2012 State Rail Plan includes information on the environmental impacts of the State's rail system, both freight and passenger, in Section 4.2 "Environmental Impacts of Rail in New Hampshire." Additionally, Section 5.2.2 "Passenger Rail Trends", identified the expansion of passenger rail service along two of the principal corridors in the state as a priority and currently both corridors, Boston to Concord and Haverhill, MA to Plaistow, are being considered in independent feasibility studies. The Rail Plan also provides information on the State's tourist and freight rail services that contribute to the overall vitality of the State.

Again, the Department hopes you will consider the benefits that rail service can provide to the State and its environment when preparing the New Hampshire State Energy Strategy. We would encourage you to review the information contained in the 2012 State Rail Plan and welcome the opportunity to have a more detailed discussion with you about rail services, if deemed necessary. A copy of our State Rail Plan is available online:

<http://www.nh.gov/dot/org/aerorailtransit/railandtransit/documents/FinalStateRailPlan.pdf>.

Sincerely,

Shelley Winters
Administrator
Bureau of Rail & Transit