



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

December 14, 2021

Jared Chicoine, Commissioner
New Hampshire Department of Energy
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Re: 2021-2023 Triennial Energy Efficiency Plan

Dear Commissioner Chicoine,

I write to you regarding the Public Utilities Commission's recently-issued order related to New Hampshire's 2021-2023 Triennial Energy Efficiency Plan. I would like to commend you for the motion that the Department of Energy filed raising concerns about that order and urge you to continue your work supporting the people of New Hampshire.

In a time of pandemic, economic inflation, and rising energy prices, New Hampshire's ratepayers are facing severe challenges. Had the proposed settlement agreement in this docket been approved, New Hampshire's ratepayers would have seen significant increases to the System Benefits Charge (SBC) – increases as high as 168% for some commercial and industrial customers over the 2020 rates. This would have represented a crushing price hike on our job creators and the economic engine of our economy: NH small businesses. I firmly believe in the value of energy efficiency to New Hampshire's ratepayers and grid, yet such sharp hikes in the SBC rates would represent a heavy burden for our main street businesses at a time when inflation is running rampant and staffing shortages are making it hard to operate even small family businesses.

However, I share the concerns that you in the Department of Energy and other stakeholders have brought forward regarding the execution of the order. Considering the unique circumstances and timing surrounding this docket, the Public Utilities Commission's order presents clear operational complications for New Hampshire's energy efficiency programs. Given the tight timelines to implement plans with the start of the new year, the resignation of the previous chair, and the pending recusal of a newly confirmed Commissioner, there are legitimate questions about how this order will affect the viability of New Hampshire's energy efficiency programs in the very near future.

I hope the Public Utilities Commission will address the concerns that may prevent stakeholders from adequately operationalizing New Hampshire's energy efficiency programs in the coming months. Implementing change of this magnitude should be approached in a methodical way to secure long-term benefits for our ratepayers.

Thank you for your actions in this proceeding and for all you do for the people of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Sununu
Governor