

# Committee Report

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

**February 10, 2021**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**The Majority of the Committee on Science, Technology and Energy to which was referred HB 80,**

**AN ACT relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund. Having considered the same, report the same with the following resolution: RESOLVED, that it is INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.**

**Rep. Jeanine Notter**

**FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE**

**MAJORITY  
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	<b>Science, Technology and Energy</b>
Bill Number:	<b>HB 80</b>
Title:	<b>relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund.</b>
Date:	<b>February 10, 2021</b>
Consent Calendar:	<b>REGULAR</b>
Recommendation:	<b>INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE</b>

**STATEMENT OF INTENT**

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) taxes carbon emissions. It collects hundreds of millions of dollars annually and distributes most of those funds to participating states according to how much energy they use. Currently, about \$5 million of RGGI-sourced funds are rebated each year to NH residential ratepayers and another \$12 million to commercial and industrial customers. This bill would take away the residential rebate and provide it to fund energy efficiency projects. Some testified in committee that the amount rebated was not a significant amount, about enough to buy an LED light bulb or a cup of coffee. While the majority supports energy efficiency, we are not in favor of redistribution of wealth, regardless of the amount. The majority also cannot support having residential customers subsidize business, which amounts to corporate welfare.

Vote 11-10.

Rep. Jeanine Notter  
FOR THE MAJORITY

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## REGULAR CALENDAR

Science, Technology and Energy

**HB 80**, relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund. **MAJORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. MINORITY: OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Jeanine Notter for the **Majority** of Science, Technology and Energy. The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) taxes carbon emissions. It collects hundreds of millions of dollars annually and distributes most of those funds to participating states according to how much energy they use. Currently, about \$5 million of RGGI-sourced funds are rebated each year to NH residential ratepayers and another \$12 million to commercial and industrial customers. This bill would take away the residential rebate and provide it to fund energy efficiency projects. Some testified in committee that the amount rebated was not a significant amount, about enough to buy an LED light bulb or a cup of coffee. While the majority supports energy efficiency, we are not in favor of redistribution of wealth, regardless of the amount. The majority also cannot support having residential customers subsidize business, which amounts to corporate welfare. **Vote 11-10.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

**REGULAR CALENDAR**

**February 10, 2021**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**The Minority of the Committee on Science, Technology and Energy to which was referred HB 80,**

**AN ACT relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund. Having considered the same, and being unable to agree with the Majority, report with the recommendation that the bill OUGHT TO PASS.**

**Rep. John Mann**

**FOR THE MINORITY OF THE COMMITTEE**

## **MINORITY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee:	<b>Science, Technology and Energy</b>
Bill Number:	<b>HB 80</b>
Title:	<b>relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund.</b>
Date:	<b>February 10, 2021</b>
Consent Calendar:	<b>REGULAR</b>
Recommendation:	<b>OUGHT TO PASS</b>

### **STATEMENT OF INTENT**

This bill rededicates about \$5 million per year, currently distributed as spare change to electric bill payers, to fund utility-run energy efficiency programs that yield durable reductions in energy costs for everyone. With 40% of NH residences heating with oil and the state importing about 135 million gallons of heating oil annually, there is plenty of savings to be had, and energy efficiency work is good work, offering good new jobs worth doing. Moreover, the accumulating retained savings in the NH economy due to efficiency will continually grow faster, benefiting the economy as a whole; a benefit to all of us. We believe this bill should be supported..

Rep. John Mann  
FOR THE MINORITY

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## REGULAR CALENDAR

Science, Technology and Energy

**HB 80**, relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. John Mann for the **Minority** of Science, Technology and Energy. This bill rededicates about \$5 million per year, currently distributed as spare change to electric bill payers, to fund utility-run energy efficiency programs that yield durable reductions in energy costs for everyone. With 40% of NH residences heating with oil and the state importing about 135 million gallons of heating oil annually, there is plenty of savings to be had, and energy efficiency work is good work, offering good new jobs worth doing. Moreover, the accumulating retained savings in the NH economy due to efficiency will continually grow faster, benefiting the economy as a whole; a benefit to all of us. We believe this bill should be supported.

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

# Voting Sheets



**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 80**

**BILL TITLE:** relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund.

**DATE:** January 29, 2021

**LOB ROOM:** 201

**MOTIONS: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**

Moved by Rep. Notter

Seconded by Rep. Berezhny

Vote: 11-10

**CONSENT CALENDAR: NO**

**Statement of Intent:** Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Merner

# Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENERGY

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 80

**BILL TITLE:** relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund.

**DATE:** January 29, 2021

**LOB ROOM:** 201 Hybrid                      **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 9:12 am

**Time Adjourned:** 10:00 am

**Committee Members:** Reps. Vose, Thomas, Harrington, Notter, Merner, Berezhny, Bernardy, Cambrils, Ploszaj, White, Somssich, Cali-Pitts, Mann, Oxenham, Vincent, McGhee, McWilliams, Chretien, Pimental and Parshall, Homola

**Bill Sponsors:**

**Rep. Mann**

**Rep. Cali-Pitts**

**Rep. McWilliams**

**TESTIMONY**

\* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

- **Rep Mann** \_\_\_\_\_ efficiency fund 5 million dollars. \_\_\_\_\_sourced funds invested, not back rate payers.
- \*Mike Fitzgerald - Neutral, submitted testimony
- Rep Cali-Pitts - Co Sponsor in Favor
- Rep Pimentel had a question on distribution of funds
- Rep Somssich spoke in favor
- Rep Thomas - question - funds average household usage
- Rep Parshall - tax payer savings
- Rep Homola - 2.9 million to 6 million NH saves
- Rep Thomas - money also comes from system benefits charge
- Rep McGhee - Question - Passing bill would lower rates?
- \* Joseph Kwasnik - Original on the Reggs funds - carbon pricing

# House Remote Testify

## Science, Technology and Energy Committee Testify List for Bill HB80 on 2021-01-29

<u>Name</u>	<u>Email Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>Signed Up</u>
Fitzgerald, Michael	michael.fitzgerald@des.nh.gov	4914142	State Agency Staff	NH DES	Neutral	Yes (0m)	1/26/2021 4:46 PM
kwasnik, joseph	jkwasnik25@gmail.com	603.730.7148	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes (0m)	1/28/2021 1:55 PM
Werner, Rob	rob_werner@lcv.org	603.674.9810	A Lobbyist	League of Conservation Voters	Support	No	1/28/2021 2:54 PM
Cramton, Karen	karen.cramton@puc.nh.gov	603.271.6012	State Agency Staff	Public Utilities Commission	Neutral	No	1/28/2021 4:06 PM
Dewey, Karen	pkdewey@comcast.net	603.504.2813	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/28/2021 8:45 PM
Richman, Susan	susan7richman@gmail.com	603.868.2758	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/28/2021 8:51 PM
Martin, Patricia	pmartin2894@yahoo.com	603.899.2894	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/29/2021 1:23 AM
Currier, Dorothy	dorocurr@gmail.com	603.000.0000	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/28/2021 10:12 PM
Rathbun, Eric	ericrathbun@gmail.com	860.912.3751	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/29/2021 12:02 AM
Beck, Gerald	bentrimone@gmail.com	603.536.3561	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/29/2021 8:11 AM
Ellermann, Maureen	ellermannf@aol.com	603.545.5878	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/29/2021 8:28 AM
Hatch, Sally	sallyhatch@comcast.net	603.724.7448	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/29/2021 8:35 AM
Brennan, Nancy	burningnan14@gmail.com	5291969	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/29/2021 8:39 AM
Rardin, Laurie	rardins@comcast.net	603.724.0905	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/29/2021 8:50 AM
Smith, MD, MPH, J. J.	jaycmd7699@gmail.com	603.485.4231	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/29/2021 8:57 AM
Reardon, Donna	bugs42953@aol.com	603.224.8151	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/29/2021 9:20 AM
BERK, BRUCE	bruce.berk.nh@gmail.com	603.000.0000	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/29/2021 9:32 AM
Reardon, John	bugs42953@aol.com	603.224.8151	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/29/2021 10:07 AM
Telerski, Laura	Laura.Telerski@Leg.State.NH.US	603.320.3957	An Elected Official	Hillsborough 35	Support	No	1/26/2021 4:53 PM
Oxenham, Evan	evan.oxenham@gmail.com	603.727.9368	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/27/2021 5:13 PM
Shepardson, Marge	marge.shepardson@gmail.com	603.876.4027	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/27/2021 1:51 PM
Anderson, Keryn	kerynlanderson@gmail.com	603.731.6425	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/27/2021 6:14 PM
Kreis, Donald	donald.kreis@oca.nh.gov	603.271.1174	State Agency Staff	Office of the Consumer Advocate	Support	No	1/27/2021 5:44 PM
Spencer, Louise	kentstusa@aol.com	603.491.1795	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/27/2021 7:30 PM
Torpey, Jeanne	jtorp51@comcast.net	603.493.8262	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/27/2021 8:05 PM
Garen, June	jzanesgaren@gmail.com	603.393.8134	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/27/2021 8:09 PM
Hinebauch, Mel	melhinebauch@gmail.com	603.224.4866	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/27/2021 8:35 PM

2/3/2021

House Remote Testify

Willing, Maura	Maura.Willing@Comcast.net	2252506	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/27/2021 9:38 PM
Spielman, Kathy	jspielman@comcast.net	603.397.7879	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/28/2021 6:21 AM
Spielman, James	jspielman@comcast.net	603.868.1626	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/28/2021 6:22 AM
Rettew, Annie	abrettew@gmail.com	603.651.7000	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/28/2021 8:34 AM
Corell, Elizabeth	Elizabeth.j.corell@gmail.com	603.545.9091	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/28/2021 8:36 AM
Platt, Elizabeth-Anne	lizanneplatt09@gmail.com	603.715.8191	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/28/2021 8:38 AM
Anderson, Eric	ericanderson@global.t-bird.edu	603.496.8263	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/28/2021 9:14 AM
Lindpaintner, Lyn	Lynlin@bluewin.ch	603.312.2133	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	1/28/2021 9:39 AM

# Testimony



The State of New Hampshire  
**Department of Environmental Services**



**Robert R. Scott, Commissioner**

January 29, 2021

The Honorable Michael Vose  
Chair, Science, Technology, and Energy Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 304  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 80-FN, An Act relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund**

Dear Chair Vose and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 80-FN. This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to include school districts in the allocation of energy efficiency funds, increases the statewide allocation for energy efficiency programs, and requires rebates from the use of auction proceeds to all commercial and industrial retail energy ratepayers. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) has no position on this bill, but remains available to answer questions, to provide information, and to otherwise assist the committee.

We offer the following background information to assist the committee. In the Fall of 2017, a committee established by SB 125 (2017) was convened to study costs in the State's electricity system and ways to mitigate those costs. Its findings included:

- *Generation costs are at their lowest in recent history, reaching a 15 year low in 2015;*
- *Transmission costs have increased significantly from 2005 to 2015;*
  - *There has been more than \$8 billion invested in transmission infrastructure;*
  - *ISO-NE estimates \$4 billion more in future investment through 2022;*
  - *The amount of electricity demand in each state determines its share of the cost;*
    - *In 2016, NH represented 9.5% of the New England total; and*
- *Energy efficiency is one of many ways to offset rising energy costs and can reduce demand.*

The full committee's recommendations included:

- *Reduce transmission costs and other costs allocated to NH by increasing spending on rigorously validated, cost-effective distributed generation, distributed resources, and energy efficiency programs that lower coincident peak demands.*

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(603) 271-3503 • TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

Most RGGI states already invest the majority of their proceeds in energy efficiency (56% of total RGGI cumulative investments)<sup>1</sup>. Thus, electricity demand is forecasted by ISO-NE to decrease in the other New England states. Because NH invests less in energy efficiency, its demand is forecasted to increase in relationship to demand in other New England states. This could cause NH's share of the \$1.3 billion in anticipated future transmission infrastructure investment to increase above its current 9.5%. Thus, a 0.5% increase in load percentage would result in \$6.5 million in increased costs to NH.

One criticism often heard regarding investments of state proceeds from RGGI allowance auctions into energy efficiency is that such investments are perceived as beneficial only to those individuals, municipalities, and businesses directly receiving EEF funds. To the contrary, as described below, any investment in cost-effective energy efficiency can directly benefit *all* New Hampshire citizens and ratepayers by reducing the overall demand for electricity, which in turn reduces the additional capital investment in generation, transmission, and distribution by electricity providers. In particular, the high cost of "peaking" plants to meet demands on the hottest days of the year are reduced or avoided. All of these costs are ultimately passed on to all New Hampshire consumers, so keeping them low is in the best interest of all citizens, businesses, and municipalities. Thus, investments in energy efficiency ultimately reduce costs for everybody, particularly in the transmission component as noted above.

In addition, investment of RGGI proceeds in municipal, school, and local government efficiency projects help to reduce that community's operating expenses; thus, reducing local property taxes by an indeterminable amount.

The "*NH Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund Annual Evaluation (July 2011 – June 2012)*"<sup>2</sup> indicated that each dollar invested in energy efficiency resulted in \$4.95 in energy savings. An independent report by the Analysis Group<sup>3</sup> found that the investment of RGGI proceeds in the region from the first three years:

- Generated \$1.6 billion in net economic benefit region-wide through the end of the decade;
- Put \$1.1 billion in electricity bill savings back into the pockets of consumers in the region over the next decade;
- Created 16,000 job-years in the region; and
- Kept \$765 million in the local economy due to reduced fossil fuel demand.

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<sup>1</sup> "Investment of RGGI Proceeds Through 2018"

[https://www.rggi.org/sites/default/files/Uploads/Proceeds/RGGI\\_Proceeds\\_Report\\_2018.pdf](https://www.rggi.org/sites/default/files/Uploads/Proceeds/RGGI_Proceeds_Report_2018.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> "*NH Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund Annual Evaluation (July 2011 – June 2012)*"

[http://puc.nh.gov/Sustainable%20Energy/GHGERF/Evaluations/GHGERF\\_Year%203\\_annual\\_report\\_2011-12\\_FINAL.pdf](http://puc.nh.gov/Sustainable%20Energy/GHGERF/Evaluations/GHGERF_Year%203_annual_report_2011-12_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> "*The Economic Impacts of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative on Ten Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States – Review of the Use of RGGI Auction Proceeds from the First Three-Year Compliance Period*" November 15, 2011

[http://www.analysisgroup.com/uploadedFiles/Publishing/Articles/Economic\\_Impact\\_RGGI\\_Report.pdf](http://www.analysisgroup.com/uploadedFiles/Publishing/Articles/Economic_Impact_RGGI_Report.pdf)



The Honorable Michael Vose  
Chair, Science, Technology, and Energy Committee  
January 29, 2021  
Page (3)

A second report<sup>4</sup> by the Analysis Group found that implementing RGGI from 2012-2014 added \$1.3 billion in economic value to the nine-state RGGI region, led to the creation of more than 14,000 new jobs, and cut electricity and heating bills, saving consumers \$460 million. Each individual state saw economic benefits as the region cut annual carbon emissions by more than a third from 2008 (133 million tons) to 2014 (86 million tons), according to the report. Another independent study<sup>5</sup> revealed that RGGI improved health, saved lives, and generated \$5.7 billion in benefits from 2009 to 2014.

These four independent reports, as well as the RGGI report cited previously, show that New Hampshire ratepayers could be well-served through increased investment of our RGGI proceeds in cost-effective energy efficiency.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on HB 80-FN. Should you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact either Michael Fitzgerald, Assistant Director ([michael.fitzgerald@des.nh.gov](mailto:michael.fitzgerald@des.nh.gov), 271-6390) or Joseph Fontaine, Technical Programs Manager ([joseph.fontaine@des.nh.gov](mailto:joseph.fontaine@des.nh.gov), 271-6794) of the Air Resources Division.

Sincerely,



Robert R. Scott  
Commissioner

Sponsors HB 80-FN: Representatives Mann, Cali-Pitts, and McWilliams

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<sup>4</sup> "The Economic Impacts of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative on Nine Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States" July 14, 2015  
<http://www.analysisgroup.com/news-and-events/news/energy-report--states-that-limit-carbon-emissions-through-markets-see-economic-benefits/>

<sup>5</sup> "Analysis of the Public Health Impacts of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative" January 11, 2017  
[http://www.abtassociates.com/NewsReleases/2017/RGGI-Improves-Health,-Saves-Lives,-and-Generates-\\$.aspx](http://www.abtassociates.com/NewsReleases/2017/RGGI-Improves-Health,-Saves-Lives,-and-Generates-$.aspx)



**OFFICE OF THE CONSUMER ADVOCATE**

21 S. Fruit St., Suite 18  
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

Website:  
[www.oca.nh.gov](http://www.oca.nh.gov)

January 27, 2021

TESTIMONY OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE DONALD M. KREIS  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND ENERGY  
IN SUPPORT OF  
HOUSE BILL 80, RELATIVE TO EXPENDITURES FROM THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY FUND

Chairman Vose and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Consumer Advocate, which (as you know) represents the interests of residential utility customers pursuant to RSA 363:28, supports this bill as sponsored by Representatives Mann, Cali-Pitts and McWilliams.

As we understand it, the central purpose of HB 80 would be to redirect New Hampshire proceeds of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) to the extent this revenue stream is attributable on a per kilowatt-hour basis to residential customers. Currently, RSA 125-O 23 requires these proceeds, to the extent they exceed \$1 per RGGI allowance, to be credited directly to the electric bills of these residential customers. HB 80 would reallocate the funds to the energy efficiency programs currently operated by electric and natural gas utilities – with a particular emphasis on efficiency programs for municipalities, school districts and other instrumentalities of local government.

The triennial energy efficiency plan for 2021-2023 that is now pending before the Public Utilities Commission (in Docket No. DE 20-092) would (as conditioned by the settlement agreement signed by our office along with the utilities and a coalition of other stakeholders) laudably and significantly increase the state's commitment to the achievement of all cost-effective energy efficiency. But, as the Committee knows, this comes at a near-term cost (via increases to the System Benefits Charge and its natural gas analog, the LDAC) that exerts upward pressure on rates at a time when the economy is stressed by the pandemic.

In these circumstances, redirecting RGGI funds to the energy efficiency programs makes sense because it would relieve some of that upward rate pressure. It is also consonant with the purposes of RGGI, which is to use principles of free-market economics to discourage the emission of heat-trapping greenhouse gases. Among ways of meeting the next unit of demand for electricity or natural gas, nothing (according to data supplied by the utilities) is more carbon neutral (and cost effective) than 'negawatts,' i.e., energy efficiency. Thus, using RGGI funds to pay for energy efficiency creates a virtuous cycle and leverages this revenue stream in a manner more desirable than what current law requires.

To the extent the Committee is willing to consider the approach at the heart of HB 80, members should keep in mind that the Commission is moving beyond a single SBC that would apply to all customers of all utilities into a paradigm in which each customer sector (i.e., residential and commercial) within each utility will pay an SBC that corresponds to the percentage of the energy efficiency budget attributable to those customers. In these circumstances, although it may seem counterintuitive, as the advocate for residential ratepayers I would support flexibility when it comes to allowing RGGI proceeds attributable to residential customers to be used in support of non-residential programs. My reason is simple: As our energy efficiency programs mature, more and more of the savings potential occurs in the commercial and industrial sector. When we achieve that potential in a manner that meets the PUC-approved “Granite State Test” for cost-effectiveness, all customers (including the residential class) save money.

Finally, and along related lines, I confess to confusion over the references to “the 2 existing customer classes” on lines 25 and 26 of page 2 of the bill. The language in question relates to RGGI funds devoted to all-fuels, comprehensive energy efficiency programs. If, as I assume, the language in question would require division of available funds between residential customers and commercial/industrial customers equally, I would respectfully suggest a different approach. In my opinion, it would be preferable to let stakeholders determine (with PUC approval, of course) the optimal sector allocation of RGGI funds in light of then-applicable programmatic realities.

I regret to say that a prior commitment (specifically, a meeting with folks in Maine who are developing a utility customer data platform bill similar to the one Rep. McGhee successfully championed here in 2019) means I will not be able to attend your hearing on this bill on January 29. But I would be pleased to answer any questions via e-mail ([donald.kreis@oca.nh.gov](mailto:donald.kreis@oca.nh.gov)) or telephone (603.271.1174) both before or after the hearing.

Thank you for considering my views.

94 Pleasant St.  
Marlborough, NH 03455  
January 27, 2021

To the members of ST&E:

I urge you to pass HB 80, to increase the amount of money spent on energy efficiency in New Hampshire.

The money that is raised by RGGI was intended to be spent on energy efficiency so we could reduce our overall energy demand, which would reduce peak usage and lower electricity costs for every citizen in the state. It would also decrease the need for expensive new infrastructure, again saving us money on our electric bills.

Vermont Governor Phil Scott has just proposed a range of clean energy investments, including \$20 million for weatherization and energy efficiency, to lower that state's energy burdens and climate pollution while supporting Vermont's economy. "(His) proposed support for expanding energy efficiency and climate resilience ... will save Vermonters money on their energy bills, make their homes more comfortable and reduce climate pollution," according to Olivia Campbell Andersen, Renewable Energy Vermont's Executive Director.

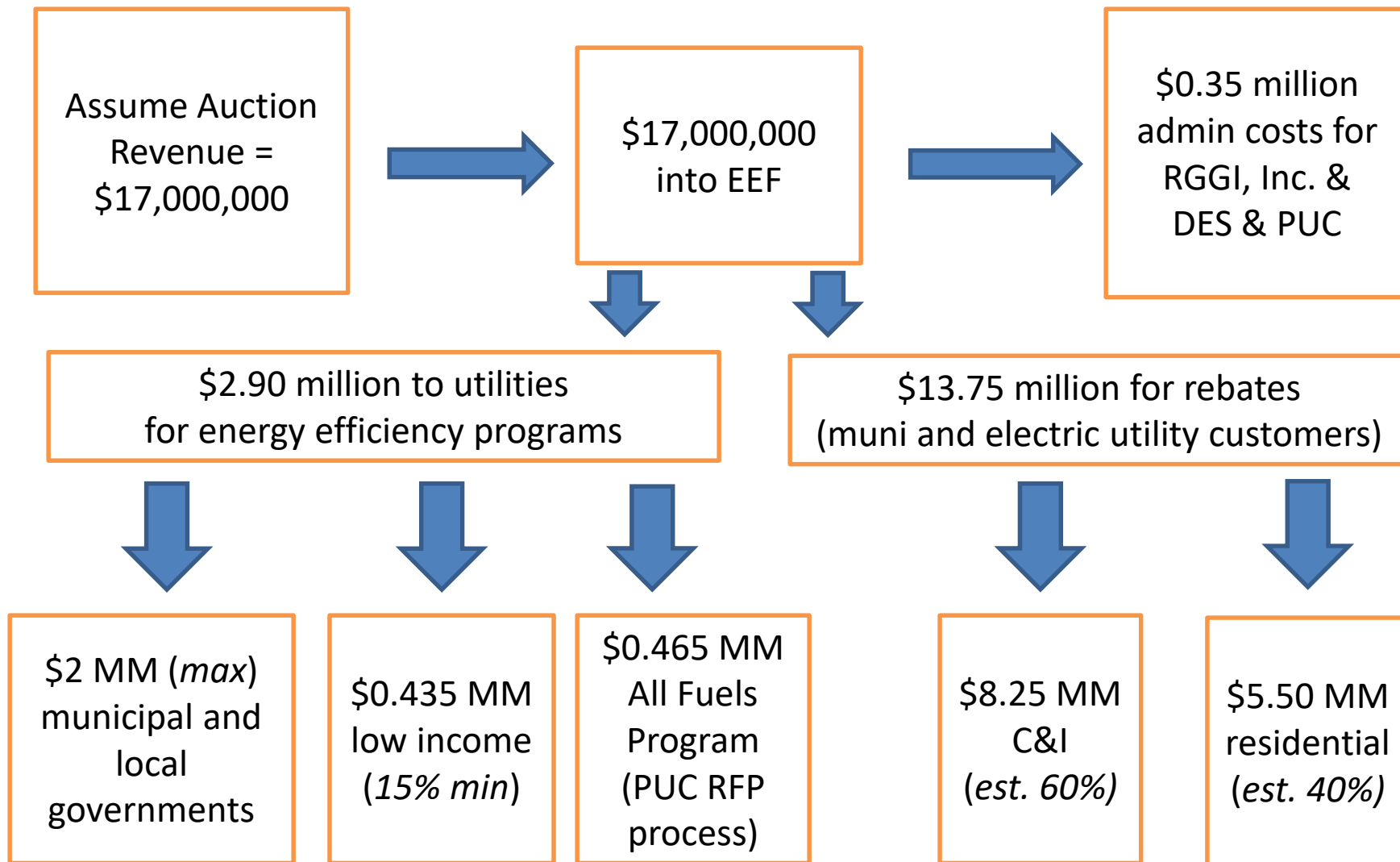
Every dollar spent on energy efficiency saves up to \$4 on avoided energy costs. The EIA (Energy Information Administration) estimates that homeowners can save up to 25% of their energy costs with EE measures.

Finally, weatherization jobs are LOCAL jobs. They aren't outsourced to another state or another country. It will be good for our economy to do this, it will be good for New Hampshire citizens, and it will reduce the amount of energy we need to import into our state.

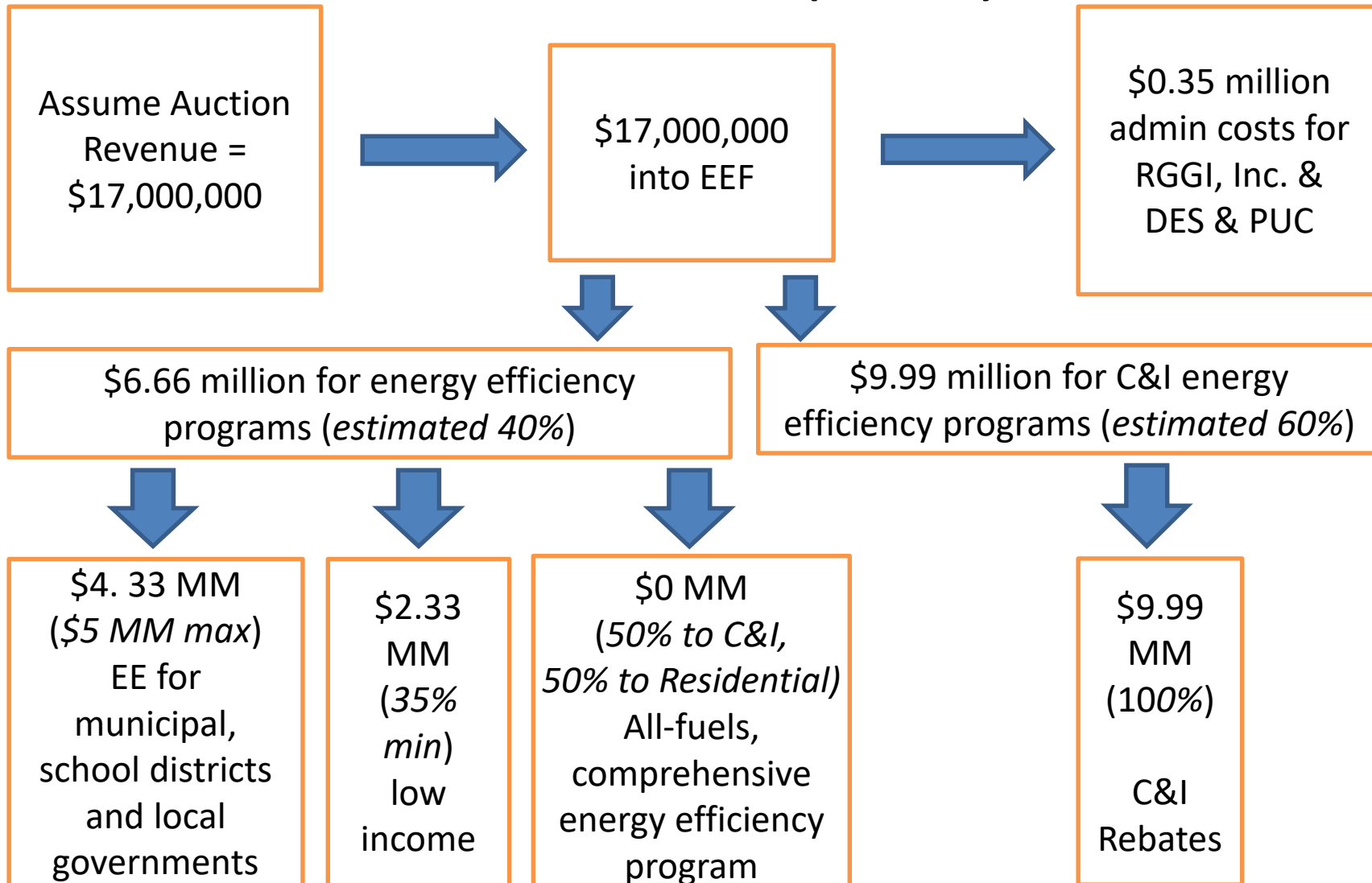
Please support HB 80.

Submitted by:  
Marge Shepardson  
Marlborough Energy Committee  
Former member of ST&E

# RGGI Revenue Allocation Under Current Law



# RGGI Revenue Allocation Under HB 80 (2021)



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Dianne Martin

COMMISSIONER  
Kathryn M. Bailey

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**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10  
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

January 27, 2021

Representative Michael Vose, Chairman  
Science, Technology and Energy Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 304  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 80, *An Act relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund***

Dear Chair Vose and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 80 (HB80). This bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to include school districts in the allocation of energy efficiency funds, increases the statewide allocation for energy efficiency programs, and requires rebates from the use of auction proceeds to all commercial and industrial retail energy ratepayers. The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission or PUC) has no position on this bill, but remains available to answer questions, to provide information, and to otherwise assist the Committee.

The attachment provides an example of HB 80's impact on the allocation of RGGI proceeds annually. The first slide diagrams the allocations based on current law. The second slide illustrates the allocations as amended in HB80. These slides are illustrative and intended to provide a visual for comparison purposes.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on HB 80. Should you have further questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact either Karen Cramton, Director ([karen.cramton@puc.nh.gov](mailto:karen.cramton@puc.nh.gov)) or David Shulock, General Counsel ([david.shulock@pic.nh.gov](mailto:david.shulock@pic.nh.gov)).

Sincerely,

Karen Cramton  
Director, Sustainable Energy Division

**Archived:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 8:46:27 AM  
**From:** Donna Reardon  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 10:09:04 AM  
**To:** ~House Science Technology and Energy  
**Cc:** Kat McGhee; Donna Reardon  
**Subject:** HB80 An Act relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund.  
**Importance:** Normal

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January 27, 2021  
Chairman Michael Vose  
Science, Technology and Energy Committee  
New Hampshire House of Representatives

RE: HB80 An Act relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund.

January 29, 2021  
Dear Chairman Vose:

I am writing today in support of HB80. My support is based on the following:

1. **RGGI is not doing what it was designed to do.** RGGI was designed to reduce carbon emissions from fossil fueled power plants in the RGGI participating states, AND to allocate the carbon emission auction proceeds back to the participating states with the intention of reinvesting the proceeds in energy efficiency measures in those states. However, at least 50% of current RGGI proceeds are sent back to bill payers (Industrial, Commercial and Residential) as direct refunds. **If those rebates are invested as intended in energy efficiency**, studies have shown that they would return over the long term through lower energy costs approximately \$4 to consumers for every \$1 invested in energy efficiency. This is a much better return for ratepayers!

2. **Energy efficiency saves money for all electric bill payers. How?** By reducing the importation of electricity from out of state power sources which reduces the sending our energy dollars to surrounding states, reduces carbon emissions, helps lower electricity costs to bill payers (especially to low income bill payers), enables New Hampshire's distribution utilities to delay or even eliminate expensive infrastructure upgrades and provides good paying jobs right here in New Hampshire...how can that be bad for the citizens of New Hampshire?

3. **RGGI should be doing it's intended purpose of allocating today's residential rebates from RGGI to effective and on-going energy efficiency programs within New Hampshire.** This is what the majority of electric ratepayers of NH want, and need, today and for our future.

4. **Energy efficiency is one of the growing industries in the country**, and this bill provides ratepayers the opportunity to pay for energy efficiency, thereby providing the opportunity to bring those good paying local jobs to NH, and not our neighboring states.

5. **Evidence that our citizens of NH support this bill** is demonstrated by the number of communities in NH that have passed resolutions adopting a goal of using 100 percent renewable energy for electricity by 2030 and for all sectors including heat and transportation by 2050.

Please support this bill because it is what the majority of ratepayers want, and need, now and for our future. Please listen to the voters of NH.



Thank you.  
Donna Reardon  
37 Curtisville Rd  
Concord NH 03301

**Archived:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 8:46:27 AM  
**From:** Jerry  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 8:12:19 AM  
**To:** ~House Science Technology and Energy  
**Subject:** HB80  
**Importance:** Normal

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January 29, 2021

Chairman Michael Vose  
Science, Technology and Energy Committee  
New Hampshire House of Representatives  
RE: HB80 An Act relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund.

Dear Chairman Vose:

I am today submitting written testimony in support of HB80.

The transition from fossil fuel base energy systems to green, renewable energy systems is underway and New Hampshire needs to get on board. The single most cost effective thing we can do to reduce NH energy needs, reduce carbon pollution and created good paying NH jobs is to invest in energy efficiency.

Our neighbors across the river in Vermont are enduring the same crises that we are, the COVID crisis, the economic crisis and the climate crisis. Yet their Republican governor, Phil Scott just this week proposed a range of clean energy investments to lower energy burdens and climate pollution while supporting Vermont's economy. Among other things, the Governor's climate economy proposals include \$20 million for weatherization and energy efficiency.

"Every Vermonter, particularly those with the highest energy burdens, must be able to equitably access local solar, electric vehicles, and efficient homes. The Governor's proposed support for expanding energy efficiency and climate resilience with local renewable energy will save Vermonters money on their energy bills, make their homes more comfortable and reduce climate pollution."

"More than 18,900 hardworking Vermonters are employed in renewable energy, clean transportation, and efficiency jobs, representing 6.1% of Vermont's workforce. Targeted investments in these sectors will provide immediate economic benefits to communities rebuilding from the devastation of COVID-19."

Yesterday was the best time to invest in energy efficiency and our future energy needs. Today is the next best time to do it. I encourage all of our elected officials to support HB80 and other forward looking energy policies.

Thank you,  
Gerald Beck  
113 Sargent Rd  
Holderness, NH 03245

**Archived:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 8:46:27 AM

**From:** Joseph Kwasnik

**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 2:14:02 PM

**To:** ~House Science Technology and Energy

**Subject:** Written Testimony Submission-HB80, HB624-FN and HB614-FN

**Importance:** Normal

**Attachments:**

[KwasnikTestimonyHB8001292021.pdf](#)  [KwasnikTestimonyHB624FN01292021.pdf](#)  [KwasnikTestimonyHB614FN01292021.pdf](#) 

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Dear NH Science, Technology and Energy Committee Member

Please find attached my written testimony on HB 80, HB624-FN and HB614-HB. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Joseph M. Kwasnik  
54 Pleasant Street, Unit 8  
Concord, NH 03301  
603-730-7148

**Archived:** Tuesday, April 20, 2021 8:46:27 AM

**From:** [Shulock, David](#)

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 2:47:24 PM

**To:** [~House Science Technology and Energy](#)

**Subject:** House Bill 80

**Importance:** Normal

**Attachments:**

[HB-80-NHPUC Comments.pdf](#)  [HB 80-comparison to current law \(RGGI \) 2021-01-29.pdf](#) 

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Good afternoon,

Attached should be two documents comprising the testimony of Karen Cramton on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission relating to House Bill 80.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Karen or me directly.

Best regards,

David Shulock

***David J. Shulock***

General Counsel

New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission

21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10

Concord, NH 03301-2429

603.271.2431 (phone)

603.271.3878 (fax)

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January 27, 2021

Chairman Michael Vose  
Science, Technology and Energy Committee  
New Hampshire House of Representatives

RE: HB80 An Act relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund.

Dear Chairman Vose:

I am today submitting written testimony **in support** of HB80. My support is based on the following reasons:

1. As a member of the original Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Stakeholders Committee, I helped shape the objectives of RGGI. One of the objectives of RGGI was obviously to reduce carbon emissions from fossil fueled power plants in the RGGI participating states but there was a second just as important objective and that was to allocate the carbon emission auction proceeds back to the participating states with the intention of reinvesting the proceeds in energy efficiency measures in those states. Unfortunately, at least 50% of current RGGI proceeds are sent back to bill payers (Industrial, Commercial and Residential) as direct refunds. These refunds, which may not even be recognized by bill payers, do nothing to reduce the demand for electricity in the participating RGGI states. If those rebates are invested in energy efficiency, they would, according to reputable studies, return over the long term through lower energy costs approximately 4 dollars to consumers for every dollar invested in energy efficiency. A much better return than simply returning cash rebates to ratepayers.
2. Energy efficiency saves money for all electric bill payers and our New Hampshire electric distribution systems by reducing the importation of electricity from out of state power sources thus reducing the outflow of our scarce energy dollars to surrounding states, reduces carbon emissions, helps lower electricity costs to bill payers (especially to low income bill payers), enables New Hampshire's distribution utilities to delay or even eliminate expensive infrastructure upgrades and provides good paying jobs right here in New Hampshire...how can that be bad for the citizens of New Hampshire?
3. HB80 is consistent with and supports the proposed New Hampshire Triennial Energy Efficiency Plan now awaiting approval by the Public Utilities Commission.
4. HB80 takes at least one step in the right direction in allocating today's residential rebates from RGGI to effective and on-going energy efficiency programs within New Hampshire. Let's do what's right for New Hampshire's electric bill payers.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Regards

Joseph M. Kwasnik  
54 Pleasant Street, Unit 8  
Concord, NH 03301  
603-730-7148

Bill as  
Introduced



**HB 80 - AS INTRODUCED**

2021 SESSION

21-0038

10/06

HOUSE BILL            **80**

AN ACT                relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Mann, Ches. 2; Rep. Cali-Pitts, Rock. 30; Rep. McWilliams, Merr. 27

COMMITTEE:          Science, Technology and Energy

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ANALYSIS

This bill requires the public utilities commission to include school districts in the allocation of energy efficiency funds, increases the statewide allocation for energy efficiency programs, and requires rebates from the use of auction proceeds to all commercial and industrial retail energy ratepayers.

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Explanation:          Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struck through.]~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One*

AN ACT relative to expenditures from the energy efficiency fund.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1 1 Findings.

2 I. New Hampshire participates in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a multi-  
3 state program aimed at reducing the production of greenhouse gases, by measures that include  
4 investing in energy efficiency measures statewide.

5 II. Currently about 5 million dollars of RGGI-sourced funds are distributed annually to  
6 residential ratepayers in the form of “rebates,” providing on average a reduction in electricity bills of  
7 about 90 cents per month per household.

8 III. Low-cost energy efficiency measures, such as installing light-emitting diode (LED)  
9 bulbs, can provide benefits far more valuable than the rebate program.

10 IV. Once installed, a durable energy efficiency measure produces a continuing savings  
11 stream for its life, with no further investment.

12 V. A program regularly producing a new savings stream, such as a family regularly  
13 installing another LED bulb or New Hampshire regularly retrofitting another building with  
14 insulation, produces an accelerating gain in retained wealth over time – while, similarly, failure to  
15 regularly invest in energy efficiency work results in an accelerating avoided-lost-revenue stream for  
16 energy suppliers. The longer the rebate scheme continues the greater the accelerating transfer of  
17 wealth from New Hampshire to oil interests. As of 2020, this transfer has been going on for 8 years.

18 VI. Accordingly, and in view of climate concerns, the general court finds it both reasonable  
19 and necessary to immediately end the rebate to residential ratepayers of revenue derived from the  
20 regional greenhouse gas initiative and invest it all, as originally intended, on effective and on-going  
21 energy efficiency programs.

22 2 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative; Energy Efficiency Fund and Use of Auction Proceeds.  
23 Amend RSA 125-O:23, II and III to read as follows:

24 II. All amounts [~~in excess of the threshold price of \$1 for any allowance sale~~] shall be  
25 ***allocated to the commercial and industrial retail electric ratepayers and the residential***  
26 ***retail electric ratepayers consistent with the kilowatt-hour delivery sales of electric***  
27 ***distribution utilities as determined by the commission. All of the commercial and***  
28 ***industrial retail electric ratepayer allocations shall be*** rebated to all ***commercial and retail***  
29 ***industrial*** [~~retail electric~~] ratepayers in the state on a per-kilowatt-hour basis, in a timely manner  
30 to be determined by the commission.

**HB 80 - AS INTRODUCED**  
**- Page 2 -**

1           III. All remaining proceeds received by the state from the sale of allowances, excluding the  
2 amount used for commission and department administration under paragraph I, shall be allocated  
3 by the commission as follows:

4           (a) At least ~~[15]~~ **35** percent to the low-income *utility* core energy efficiency program.

5           (b) Beginning January 1, ~~[2014]~~ **2021**, ~~[up to \$2,000,000]~~ **no more than \$5,000,000**  
6 annually to utility core *energy efficiency* programs for municipal, *school district*, and local  
7 government energy efficiency projects, including projects by local governments that have their own  
8 municipal utilities. Funding elements shall include, but not be limited to, funding for direct  
9 technical and project management assistance to identify and encourage comprehensive projects and  
10 incentives structured to assist municipal and local governments funding energy efficiency projects.  
11 In calendar years 2014~~[-2015, and 2016,]~~ **through 2020** any unused funds allocated to municipal  
12 and local government projects under this paragraph remaining at the end of the year shall roll over  
13 and be added to the new calendar year program funds and continue to be made available exclusively  
14 for municipal and local government projects. Beginning in calendar year ~~[2017]~~ **2021**, and all  
15 subsequent years, funds allocated to municipal and local government projects under this paragraph  
16 shall be offered first to municipal and local governments as described in this paragraph for no less  
17 than 4 full calendar months. If, at the end of this time, municipal and local governments have not  
18 submitted requests for eligible projects that will expend the funds allocated to municipal and local  
19 government projects under this paragraph within that program year, the funds shall be offered on a  
20 first-come, first-serve basis to business and municipal customers who fund the system benefits  
21 charge.

22           (c) The remainder to all-fuels, comprehensive energy efficiency programs administered  
23 by qualified parties which may include electric distribution companies as selected through a  
24 competitive bid process. The funding shall be distributed among residential, commercial, and  
25 industrial customers ~~[based upon each customer class's electricity usage]~~ **divided evenly between**  
26 **the 2 existing customer classes** to the greatest extent practicable as determined by the  
27 commission. Bids shall be evaluated based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:

- 28           (1) A benefit/cost ratio analysis including all fuels.
- 29           (2) Demonstrated ability to provide a comprehensive, fuel neutral program.
- 30           (3) Demonstrated infrastructure to effectively deliver such program.
- 31           (4) Experience of the bidder in administering energy efficiency programs.
- 32           (5) Ability to reach out to customers.
- 33           (6) The validity of the energy saving assumptions described in the bid.

34           3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.