

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**SB115**

Bill as  
Introduced

SB 115 - AS INTRODUCED

2021 SESSION

21-1068  
06/10

SENATE BILL        **115**

AN ACT            establishing greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for the state and  
                      establishing a climate action plan.

SPONSORS:        Sen. Prentiss, Dist 5; Sen. Watters, Dist 4; Sen. Perkins Kwoka, Dist 21; Sen.  
                      Bradley, Dist 3

COMMITTEE:      Energy and Natural Resources

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ANALYSIS

This bill establishes greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for the state and authorizes the department of environmental services to inventory greenhouse gas emissions on an annual basis and to develop and report on a 5-year action plan.

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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                      Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.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                    establishing greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for the state and  
                                 establishing a climate action plan.

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

1            1 Findings. The general court finds:

2            I. Scientific evidence for the warming of the climate system is unequivocal. This warming is  
3            overwhelmingly attributable to human activity and development, particularly the combustion of  
4            fossil fuels.

5            II. Left unchecked, the climate crisis will continue to have real and catastrophic impacts on  
6            New Hampshire's residents, economy, and environment, as well as on the health and safety of New  
7            Hampshire families.

8            (a) New Hampshire will see longer and hotter summers; shorter, warmer winters; and  
9            more frequent and more extreme precipitation events, resulting in both increase flooding and  
10           drought.

11           (b) Climate impacts will endanger the health of New Hampshire families by facilitating  
12           the spread of vector-borne diseases as well as increasing rates of respiratory and cardiovascular  
13           disease.

14           (c) Increased warming and more extreme and more frequent precipitation events will  
15           also negatively impact key sectors of New Hampshire's resource-based economy, harming  
16           agriculture, tourism and outdoor recreational activities such as skiing, hiking, fishing, and hunting.

17           (d) A warmer and more acidic Gulf of Maine will see increased coastal flooding which  
18           will endanger the lives, homes, and business properties of coastal residents.

19           (e) Decreases in terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and wildlife and fishing stocks,  
20           brought on by climate change and overdevelopment, will likewise imperil New Hampshire's fishing,  
21           hunting, hiking, and related industries and the local economies and communities that depend upon  
22           them.

23           III. Taking action to mitigate the climate crisis also presents opportunities for New  
24           Hampshire, and the state should move quickly to maximize the co-benefits of mitigating climate  
25           disruption.

26           (a) As renewable resources like wind and solar increasingly replace fossil fuels, New  
27           Hampshire manufacturing businesses should reap the benefits. The state should act to ensure New  
28           Hampshire is well-represented in the multi-state effort to harvest the wind resources of the Gulf of  
29           Maine and to benefit from locally-based supply chains.

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1 (b) In addition to helping reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions, replacing fossil  
2 fuels with zero emission sources of energy will also improve the health of New Hampshire families  
3 by reducing pollution that degrades the state's air quality.

4 (c) Producing energy from local wind, water, and solar facilities will keep billions of our  
5 energy dollars in state, instead of sending them out of state and out of the country, creating a  
6 virtuous circle of in-state development.

7 (d) A more renewably-based and energy self-sufficient state government will save  
8 taxpayer's money and retain more of that money in state to fuel New Hampshire's economy.

9 (e) It is incumbent upon the state government to take prompt, proactive, and continuing  
10 action to protect residents from the anticipated consequences of the climate crisis; to mitigate the  
11 foreseeable harms to the extent possible; and to safeguard New Hampshire's resources for the use of  
12 generations to come.

13 2 New Subdivision; Climate Action Plan. Amend RSA 125-O by inserting after section 29 the  
14 following new subdivision:

15 **Climate Action Plan**

16 **125-O:30 Climate Action Plan.**

17 I. The public policy of the state of New Hampshire shall be to reduce statewide greenhouse  
18 gas emissions to:

19 (a) At least 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2025;

20 (b) At least 50 percent below 1990 levels by 2035; and

21 (c) Net zero by 2050, defined as a level of statewide greenhouse gas emissions that is  
22 equal in quantity to the amount of carbon dioxide or its equivalent that is removed from the  
23 atmosphere and stored annually in the state, excluding removed and stored carbon dioxide or its  
24 equivalent that another jurisdiction credits against its emissions; provided, however, that in no  
25 event shall the level of emissions be greater than a level that is 85 percent below the 1990 level.

26 II. All state agencies with jurisdiction over activities that impact greenhouse gas emissions  
27 shall incorporate these goals into their project planning, rulemaking, and funding determinations  
28 going forward.

29 III. Beginning in calendar year 2022, the commissioner of the department of environmental  
30 services shall submit an annual greenhouse gas inventory report, on or before January 15, to the  
31 public, the governor, the senate president, the speaker of the house of representatives, the  
32 chairperson of the senate energy and natural resources committee, the chairperson of the house  
33 science, technology and energy committee, the house clerk, the senate clerk, the energy efficiency  
34 and sustainable energy board, and the office of strategic initiatives. The inventory shall:

35 (a) Be established with calendar year 1990 as the baseline year and use scientifically  
36 valid methodologies that are consistent with surrounding state and federal practices.

1 (b) Separately identify the greenhouse gas contribution of each of the major sectors of  
2 the New Hampshire economy.

3 IV.(a) By July 1, 2023, the department of environmental services shall, after a period of  
4 public comment, prepare and adopt a plan for achieving the limits and interim limits established  
5 pursuant to paragraph I. This plan shall be reviewed and updated by the department every 5 years.

6 (b) In developing this plan, the department shall:

7 (1) Evaluate the best available scientific, technological, and economic information on  
8 greenhouse gas emissions.

9 (2) Consider inclusion of strategies, programs, and compliance mechanisms with  
10 measurable goals and targets, including, but not limited to: development of market-based programs,  
11 expanding financing and investment tools, modernizing the electrical grid, electric sector regulations  
12 and rates, supporting strategic electrification and fuel switching, promoting combined heat and  
13 power systems, modifying the renewable energy standard and procurement, expanding least-cost  
14 energy procurement (including to unregulated fuels), improving state energy efficiency codes,  
15 standards and compliance; addressing natural gas leaks, promoting alternative fuel and electric  
16 vehicles, increasing use and availability of efficient public transport, changing land-use patterns to  
17 support transit-oriented development and mixed-use commercial and residential areas, and  
18 maintaining and enhancing the carbon storage and sequestration, and related ecosystem services,  
19 provided by New Hampshire's agricultural and forested lands, as well as freshwater, coastal, and  
20 marine systems.

21 (3) Consider opportunities to encourage public and private investment toward rural,  
22 low-income, low to moderate income, and minority communities in New Hampshire and provide an  
23 opportunity for small businesses, schools, affordable housing associations, and other community  
24 institutions to participate in and benefit from statewide efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

25 (4) Recommend how the state could provide retraining and apprenticeship  
26 opportunities for those affected by the required changes.

27 (5) Consult with the public utilities commission, the department of transportation,  
28 the department of agriculture, markets and food, and the office of strategic initiatives throughout  
29 the plan development process to ensure the greenhouse gas emissions reduction activities to be  
30 adopted and implemented by the department are complementary, non-duplicative, and can be  
31 implemented in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

32 (c) The department of environmental services, in conjunction with the public utilities  
33 commission, the department of transportation, the department of agriculture, markets and food, and  
34 the office of strategic initiatives, shall develop a report regarding the plan, including areas of  
35 progress, barriers, and emerging opportunities, 2 and 4 years following the release of the plan. The  
36 commissioner of the department of environmental services shall submit the report, to be made  
37 available on or before January 15, to the public, the governor; the senate president; the speaker of

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1 the house of representatives; the chairperson of the senate energy and natural resources committee,  
2 the chairperson of the house science, technology and energy committee, the house clerk, the senate  
3 clerk, the energy efficiency and sustainable energy board, and the office of strategic initiatives.

4 3 State Energy Policy. RSA 378:37 is repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

5 378:37 New Hampshire Energy Policy.

6 I. The general court declares that it shall be the energy policy of this state to:

7 (a) Meet the energy needs of the citizens and businesses of the state at the lowest  
8 reasonable cost while providing for the reliability and diversity of energy sources.

9 (b) Maximize the use of all cost-effective energy efficiency and other demand-side  
10 resources.

11 (c) Achieve the greenhouse gas emission goals identified in RSA 125-O:30, I; and

12 (d) Protect the safety and health of the citizens, the physical environment of the state,  
13 and the supply of natural resources for future generations.

14 II. The energy policy of this state shall be developed with due regard and appreciation for  
15 both the short- and long-term financial and fiscal costs imposed by climate change on the state, its  
16 citizens, and businesses. It shall also seek to mitigate the difficulties associated with the transition  
17 to a clean energy-based economy for this state's businesses, commercial entities, and labor force in a  
18 manner that does not impede this state from achieving the greenhouse gas emission reduction goals  
19 identified in RSA 125-O:30, I.

20 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

# Committee Minutes



# SENATE CALENDAR NOTICE

## Energy and Natural Resources

Sen Kevin Avard, Chair  
Sen Bob Giuda, Vice Chair  
Sen James Gray, Member  
Sen David Watters, Member  
Sen Rebecca Perkins Kwoka, Member

Date: February 3, 2021

### HEARINGS

Tuesday	02/09/2021	
(Day)	(Date)	
Energy and Natural Resources	REMOTE 000	9:00 a.m.
(Name of Committee)	(Place)	(Time)
9:00 a.m. <b>SB 129</b>	relative to minimizing environmental impacts on the habitats of endangered or threatened species.	
9:20 a.m. <b>SB 115</b>	establishing greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for the state and establishing a climate action plan.	
9:40 a.m. <b>SB 114-FN</b>	relative to the enjoyment of publicly-accessible and publicly-funded recreation areas.	

Committee members will receive secure Zoom invitations via email.

Members of the public may attend using the following links:

1. Link to Zoom Webinar: <https://www.zoom.us/j/91981817225>
2. To listen via telephone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): 1-301-715-8592, or 1-312-626-6799 or 1-929-205-6099, or 1-253-215-8782, or 1-346-248-7799, or 1-669-900-6833
3. Or iPhone one-tap: US: +13126266799,,91981817225# or +19292056099,,91981817225#
4. Webinar ID: 919 8181 7225
5. To view/listen to this hearing on YouTube, use this link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjBZdtrjRnQdmg-2MPMiWrA>
6. To sign in to speak, register your position on a bill and/or submit testimony, use this link:  
<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/remotecommittee/senate.aspx>

The following email will be monitored throughout the meeting by someone who can assist with and alert the committee to any technical issues: [remotesenate@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:remotesenate@leg.state.nh.us) or call (603-271-6931).

### EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

#### Sponsors:

**SB 129**

Sen. Bradley

**SB 115**

Sen. Prentiss

Sen. Watters

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Sen. Bradley

**SB 114-FN**

Sen. Whitley  
Rep. Espitia

Sen. Prentiss  
Rep. Harriott-Gathright

Sen. Perkins Kwoka  
Rep. Perez

Rep. Alicea  
Rep. Wazir

Griffin Roberge 271-3042

Kevin A. Avard  
Chairman

**Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee**  
*Griffin Roberge 271-3042*

**SB 115**, establishing greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for the state and establishing a climate action plan.

**Hearing Date:** February 9, 2021.

**Time Opened:** 10:42 a.m.

**Time Closed:** 11:40 a.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Avard, Giuda, Gray, Watters and Perkins Kwoka

**Members of the Committee Absent:** None.

**Bill Analysis:** This bill establishes greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for the state and authorizes the department of environmental services to inventory greenhouse gas emissions on an annual basis and to develop and report on a 5-year action plan.

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**Sponsors:**

Sen. Prentiss  
Sen. Bradley

Sen. Watters

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

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**Who supports the bill:** Leslie Anderson; Laura Aronson; John Atherton; Bill Baber; David Bates; Sharon Beaufait; Clifton Below; Mitze Bender; Sarah Bienvenue; Mary Anne Broshek; Barbara Callaway; Catherine Corkery, NH Sierra Club; Jo-Ellen Courtney; Dorothy Currier; David Del Soto; Richard DeMark; Tom DeRosa, New Hampshire Planners Association; Liza Draper; Elizabeth Lukatis-Fenner; Ellen Fisher; Nicole Fordey; Representative Sherry Frost, Strafford - District 16; John Gage; Sherry Gould; Anne Grossi; Joyce Hassell; Cori Hirai; John Hurley; April Ingram; Sara Johnson; Susan Kaplan; Emily Karmen; Ruth Larson; Kathleen Letellier; Elizabeth Lewis; Richard Maynard; Marie McCormick; Douglas McIlroy; Linda McWilliams; Roger McWilliams; Julie Osherson; Sam Osherson; Representative Lee Oxenham, Sullivan - District 1; Senator Rebecca Perkins Kwoka, NH Senate District 21; Senator Suzanne Prentiss, NH Senate District 5; Julie Puttgen; Kevin Ramos-Glew; Victoria Ramos-Glew; Brynne Rardin; Laurie Rardin; Elissa Rasmussen; Mary Raven; Susan Richman; Dennis Robison; Marjorie Rogalski; Mary Schissel; Kristina Snyder; Dean Sotirakopoulos; Richard Spence; Caroline Storrs; Jo Strohbehn; Deborah Thibodeaux; Mary Till; Jake Tingley; Sheila Vargas, The Nature Conservancy; Cynthia Walter; Kathleen Waste; Senator David Watters, NH Senate District 4; Carol Weingeist; Ken Wells; Rob Werner, League of Conservation Voters; Representative Joyce Weston, Grafton - District 8.

**Who opposes the bill:** David Creer, Business and Industry Association; Robert Sculley, Energy Marketers Association of NH; Alvin See.

**Who is neutral on the bill:** Michael Fitzgerald and Christopher Skoglund, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

## Summary of testimony presented in support:

*Senator Suzanne Prentiss*

*NH Senate District 5*

- Climate change is attributable to human activity and development. Left unchecked, climate change will have a negative impact on NH's residents, economy, and environment. NH should take action to mitigate climate change effects. Failure to do so imposes greater costs on NH in the future.
- SB 115 establishes statewide greenhouse gas emission reduction goals with the aim to have net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. All state agencies shall incorporate these goals into their project planning, rulemaking, and funding determinations.
- Starting in 2022, NHDES shall submit a greenhouse gas inventory report on an annual basis. This report will be made public and submitted to the Governor and various legislative leaders.
- NH's last climate action plan was the NH Climate Change Policy Task Force's March 2009 NH Climate Action Plan. This Task Force was created by Governor John Lynch through Executive Orders 2007-2 and 2007-03. SB 115 represents an effort to revise the March 2009 NH Climate Action Plan. Under SB 115, NHDES shall prepare and adopt a plan for achieving the greenhouse emission reduction goals starting on July 1, 2023. NHDES shall revise the plan every five years, receive public comment, and consider various factors.
- Section 3 repeals and replaces RSA 378:37 dealing with New Hampshire Energy Policy, stating that NH's energy policy shall meet the energy needs of the citizens and businesses of the state at the lowest reasonable cost, maximize the use of all cost-effective energy efficiency, achieve SB 115's greenhouse gas emission goals, and protect the safety and health of the state's citizens, environment, and natural resources. This new policy shall also consider the short-term and long-term financial costs imposed by climate change on the state, and mitigate the difficulties associated with transitioning to a clean energy-based economy that does not impede the state from achieving its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.
- Senator Watters said that SB 115 states that a warmer and more acidic Gulf of Maine will lead to increased coastal flooding, which endangers the lives of coastal residents. A more acidic ocean will have an impact on freshwater, coastal, and marine systems. The NH Coastal Marine Natural Resources and Environment Commission was established in 2016 and one of the things the Commission looked at was ocean acidification and its impact on lobster, shellfish, and shrimp. Losing these sea industries could be harmful to the economy. He asked if SB 115 took steps to protect those important segments of NH's economy.
  - Senator Prentiss said SB 115 takes ocean acidification into consideration. SB 115 considers national or global impacts on climate change, but the impacts of inaction at the state level. NH has not developed a comprehensive plan to address climate change's impacts to industries important to NH.
- Senator Giuda asked if there were any cost considerations for SB 115's policy proposals.
  - Senator Prentiss deferred to Representative Oxenham to answer Senator Giuda's question.

*Representative Lee Oxenham*

*Sullivan – District 1*

- There are significant costs of inaction in addressing climate change. The American Society of Civil Engineers has calculated that for every \$1 spent on road maintenance avoids nearly \$4-10 in road repairs. Necessary investments addressing climate change will be dwarfed by the cost of inaction. Continued inaction will increase prices for future generations in terms of direct costs (physical costs), indirect costs (weaker economic growth, decreased asset values), and costs of uncertainty (risk and volatility).
- Between 2008 and 2018, extreme weather events nationwide cost the nation \$1 trillion. Nearly \$318 billion was spent on climate-related disasters in 2017 alone. Over the past five years, major natural disasters have doubled to more than 12 events annually. Devoting financial resources to rebuild or respond to climate change events diverts funding from new, productive investments that foster economic growth. Much of the data on climate change impacts is on a national level. NH does not make any investments to study its own climate change impacts. Investments are needed now in climate planning, preparedness, and mitigation.
- Senator Giuda asked if SB 115's proposed policies had any cost considerations for households, business, and industries within NH.
  - Representative Oxenham referenced page 3, lines 21-24. Under NHDES's climate action plan, NHDES is required to consider opportunities to encourage public and private investment toward rural, low-income, low to moderate income, and minority communities in NH and provide an opportunity for small businesses, schools, affordable housing associations, and other community institutions to participate in and benefit from statewide efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The findings listed in Section 1 also outline how various industries will benefit from proactive action in responding to climate change.

- Senator Giuda said he did not see any language in the bill that required an economic impact study of the bill's proposed policies. He asked if Representative Oxenham would be amenable to requiring an economic impact study of the bill's proposed changes.
  - Representative Oxenham said she would entertain such an amendment.
- Senator Perkins Kwoka asked if SB 115 allowed businesses to conduct long-term planning.
  - Representative Oxenham said SB 115 allowed long-term planning. In Section 3, the New Hampshire Energy Policy is amended to "meet the energy needs of the citizens and businesses of the state at the lowest reasonable cost while providing for the reliability and diversity of energy sources."
- Senator Watters said he agreed with Senator Giuda. He referenced Section 3 and its changes to the New Hampshire Energy Policy. Under SB 115, "the energy policy of this state shall be developed with due regard and appreciation for both the short- and long-term financial and fiscal costs imposed by climate change on the state, its citizens, and businesses. It shall also seek to mitigate the difficulties associated with the transition to a clean energy-based economy for this state's businesses, commercial entities, and labor force in a manner that does not impede this state from achieving the greenhouse gas emission reduction goals identified in RSA 125-O:30, I." He asked if was fair to say that this language looks at the costs and benefits of creating greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. If the language were to be made more explicit, it would be done in Section 3.
  - Representative Oxenham agreed with Senator Watters. Section 3 ensures that NH's businesses and commercial entities are taken care of as NH confronts climate change.

*John Atherton*

- Climate change is a major threat. NH can pay a little now to address the effects of climate change, or exponentially more later. Continued inaction on climate change kicks climate change's impact down to future generations. SB 115 is an opportunity to improve public health, stability property values, and build a homegrown job force.

*Catherine Corkery – provided written testimony*

*Chapter Director, NH Sierra Club*

- Climate change is routinely flooding the roadways and buildings along Hampton Beach. NH's moose are disappearing from the forest because ticks are living longer with the warmer temperatures.
- SB 115 recognizes the enormity of facing climate change by providing crucial state leadership.

*John Gage*

*Windham, NH*

- A carbon fee and dividend would help quickly address the effects of climate change and alter the way NH emits greenhouse gases. Such a policy would place a fee on the emission of carbon pollution and increase that fee overtime to disincentivize the use of fossil fuels. The money collected from this fee would be rebated back to those who paid it to help them transition to cleaner energy and away from fossil fuels.

*Cynthia Walter – provided written testimony*

*Dover, NH*

- SB 115 signals that NH is open for clean energy businesses in competition with our neighboring states. Inaction regarding greenhouse gases harms the health and budget of each NH resident.
- Costs of climate inaction include the rise of serious diseases (Lyme disease, mosquito diseases, asthma attacks), loss of NH's harvests, and the contamination of drinking water sources and reduced coastal property values.
- Reducing greenhouse gases will provide real health savings for NH residents and give NH time to stabilize coastal properties and property values, protect drinking water sources, adapt local crops to warming weather, and install flood resilience measures.

*Doug Marino – provided written testimony*

*Advocacy and Engagement Director, 603 Forward*

- Actions need to be taken to combat climate change in order to make NH a viable place for young people to live. The goals laid out in SB 115 represent substantial steps in the right direction. Combating climate change is a moral and economic necessity.

## Summary of testimony presented in opposition:

*David Creer – provided written testimony*

*Director of Public Policy, Business and Industry Association (BIA)*

- A thorough cost-benefit analysis should be a prerequisite for any state strategy to address climate change to ensure that a reasonable solution to climate change is achieved without damaging the economy.
- The Ad Hoc Emissions Commission met throughout the summer and fall of 2020 and heard a lot of testimony about the health impacts and severity of climate change, but it did not discuss the costs associated with reaching target emissions goals. SB 71 (2021) would continue the Commission's work, and the BIA recommended that the Commission also conduct a thorough cost-benefit analysis as part of its study.
- Senator Watters asked if the BIA would support SB 115 if a cost-benefit analysis was included.
  - Mr. Creer said the cost-benefit analysis should be completed before the implementation of any greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal. Completing that analysis will offer better guidance on creating a greenhouse gas emission reduction strategy.
- Senator Watters clarified that the BIA would support SB 115 if a cost-benefit analysis was completed before the implementation of any greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.
  - Mr. Creer said the BIA would probably support SB 115 if a cost-benefit analysis was completed before the implementation of any greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. Mr. Creer clarified that the BIA would need to review any proposed amendment to SB 115 before officially commenting and would want to ensure that a thorough cost-benefit analysis was conducted.

*Leslie Anderson – provided written testimony*

*President & CEO, Propane Gas Association of New England*

- Promoting electrification over the use of propane would be detrimental to the overall goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, promoting electrification and expanding its use will make New Hampshire more vulnerable to climate impacts. If electricity dependence is going to increase throughout New Hampshire, it is imperative that the legislature partner with an energy source that will further the state's energy security and resiliency needs. Propane is the perfect partner for resiliency needs. Propane is an EPA certified alternative fuel and a federally certified emergency civil defense energy.
- Using propane furthers the fundamental environmental goal to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle as promoted by EPA and DES. Most people do not realize that propane is a beneficial biproduct of natural gas processing. About 5% of natural gas processing produces propane. If propane is not captured and beneficially used to offset another energy source, it is simply burned off. Indeed, there is a global surplus of propane because natural gas is being used so much around the world in place of coal and other dirty energy sources. Thus, propane should be promoted as key component of New Hampshire's energy strategy, since reuse of this underutilized biproduct is essentially carbon neutral (surplus biproduct is wasted energy).
- Attaining energy from zero emission energy sources is a misnomer. There are carbon impacts from all energy sources, whether it be from the coal generated power plant used to construct the steel for wind turbine blades, or the electricity generated from natural gas plants. Electric batteries require heavy metals, and cobalt and lithium are not renewable. The New Hampshire approach to climate should be holistic and look at a diverse energy plan that includes multiple low carbon energy sources to form its climate solution. Propane should be part of this solution.

## Neutral Information Presented:

*Michael Fitzgerald & Christopher Skoglund – provided written testimony*

*Assistant Director, Air Resources Division, NHDES*

*Climate and Energy Program Manager, Air Resources Division, NHDES*

- SB 115 is similar to HB 1664-FN (2020), which was laid on the Senate table due to the COVID-19 pandemic. HB 172 (2021) is an identical bill.
- While understanding of the impacts of climate change, NHDES receives no state funding for climate change planning activities. NHDES has one staffer that is funded through a combination of EPA funds and a large environmental settlement that NH benefited from. However, EPA funds have been level for nearly ten years – level funding does not account for increases in costs. This EPA funding funded nearly 20 positions in 2012, but only covers roughly 12 positions in 2021. The settlement funds will only cover the one NHDES staffer for another two to three years.

- The work put into the March 2009 NH Climate Action Plan was extensive. This process included pre-planning during the first half of 2007, along with full-scale planning that ran all of 2008 and into March 2009. The Plan development process was overseen by a 29-member Climate Change Policy Task Force drawn from the public, private, and non-profit sectors, as well as academia, state agencies, and members of the NH General Court, and which represented a geographically diverse area. The Task Force received guidance from six sector-based working groups, composed of 125 individuals, which in turn received considerable analytical support concerning the greenhouse gas emissions reduction potential of the more than 100 strategies considered, as well as their costs and benefits. The Task Force also sought extensive public input throughout the process, ranging from briefings for the public at the outset of the process, open Task Force meetings with public comments, as well as listening sessions held in all corners of the state. At least ten NHDES assisted the Task Force throughout this process, but not all at one time.
- Based on SB 115's requirements, NHDES estimates that at least three (3) full-time-equivalent positions would be necessary for NHDES to fulfill the additional work. While current staff are engaged in tracking the annual emissions of non-greenhouse gas pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions, additional staff would be needed to plan and manage the incorporation of greenhouse gas goals into agency activities. It is likely that the other stated agencies named in the bill would need or benefit from NHDES staff assisting in their own greenhouse gas emissions reduction efforts.
- Additionally, NHDES staff would need to oversee the process to develop the state climate action plan intended to achieve the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. This includes managing stakeholder engagement and technical analysis. Following the plan's completion, those staff would need to maintain the greenhouse gas inventory, and track implementation of the new climate action plan. As written, the Department would be required to track and report on the elements in the plan biennially and manage an update to the plan every five years. These requirements exceed the current NHDES staffing capacity.
- In addition, the implementation of a climate plan will very likely have an economic impact on the state, influencing energy costs for residents, businesses, and manufacturers as well as towns, schools, counties, and the state, as well as resulting in workforce changes. To understand the implications of the greenhouse gas emissions reductions required to meet the targets in this bill, the development of the new climate action plan by 2023, and then again every five years, would strongly benefit from the support of a technical consultant. Such a consultant would be necessary to evaluate the emissions-reduction potential, as well as the costs and benefits of the greenhouse gas emissions reductions strategies considered during the plan's development. The consultants that took part in the development of the March 2009 NH Climate Action Plan and the 2014 State Energy Strategy were invaluable in assuring that those plans included strategies that provided a substantial positive net economic benefit to the state.
- Senator Watters noted that NH appeared to have a severe lack of resources to combat climate change. He asked if it was highly likely that the demands on NHDES to respond to climate change will increase in future years.
  - Mr. Fitzgerald said that the demands placed on NHDES come from the NH General Court. He concurred that the need for action and planning will only become stronger. NHDES takes its direction from state statute.

GJR  
Date Hearing Report completed: February 9, 2021.

# Speakers



<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Testifying</b>
Creer David	A Lobbyist	BIA	Oppose	Yes
Prentiss Suzanne	An Elected Official	Senate District 5	Support	Yes
Walter Cynthia	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes
Fitzgerald Michael	State Agency Staff	NHDES	Neutral	Yes
Corkery Catherine	A Lobbyist	NH Sierra Club	Support	Yes
Skoglund Chris	State Agency Staff	NH Department of Environmental Services	Neutral	Yes
Gage John	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes
Atherton John	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes
Richman Susan	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes
Below Clifton	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes
Bates David	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	Yes
Larson Ruth	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Johnson Sara	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Werner Rob	A Lobbyist	League of Conservation Voters	Support	No
Ingram April	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Frost Sherry	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No
Gould Sherry	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Bienvenue Sarah	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Tingley Jake	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Anderson Leslie	A Member of the Public	Propane Gas Association of New England	Oppose	No
Hassell Joyce	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Sotirakopoulos Dean	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Thibodeaux Deborah	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No
Perkins Kwoka Senator Rebecca	An Elected Official	Myself (SD 21)	Support	No
Watters Senator David	An Elected Official	Myself (SD 4)	Support	No
Weston Joyce	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No
Osherson Sam	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Maynard Richard	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Spence Richard	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Bender Mitze	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Sculley Robert	A Lobbyist	Energy Marketers Association of NH	Oppose	No
Vargas Sheila	A Lobbyist	The Nature Conservancy	Support	No
DeMark Richard	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Till Mary	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No

Fenner-Lukaitis Elizabeth	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Fordey Nicole	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Grossi Anne	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Snyder Kristina	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
DeRosa Tom	A Lobbyist	New Hampshire Planners Association	Support	No
Karmen Emily	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Kaplan Susan	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
McWilliams Roger	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
strohbehn jo	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Beaufait Sharon	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Rogalski Marjorie	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Hurley John	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Wells Ken	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Broshek Mary Anne	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Waste Kathleen	A Member of the Public	Kathleen D. Waste	Support	No
Robison Dennis	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Ramos-Glew Victoria	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Ramos-Glew Kevin	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
McCormick Marie	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Weingeist Carol	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Del Sesto David	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Schissel Mary	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Callaway Barbara	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Courtney Jo-Ellen	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Puttgen Julie	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Storrs Caroline	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
McWilliams Linda	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Fisher Ellen	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Hirai Cori	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Rardin Laurie	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Aronson Laura	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
See Alvin	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No
Baber Bill	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Letellier Kathleen	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Osherson Julie	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No

Oxenham Lee	An Elected Official	Sullivan Co. District 1	Support	No
Currier Dorothy	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
MCILROY DOUGLAS	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Rardin Brynne	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Lewis Elizabeth	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Rasmussen Elissa	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Draper Liza	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No
Raven Mary	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No

# Testimony

## Griffin Roberge

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**From:** Carol Foss <cfoss@nhaudubon.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2021 7:30 AM  
**To:** Griffin Roberge  
**Subject:** SB115 testimony  
**Attachments:** 2021 SB 115 GHG Reduction Goals Testimony final.pdf

Dear Griffen,

If Sheila Vargas submitted our testimony yesterday afternoon please ignore this, but we were unable to connect at the end of the day yesterday and I want to make sure you have at least one copy!

Many thanks!

Carol

Carol R. Foss, Ph.D.  
Senior Advisor for Science and Policy

New Hampshire Audubon  
84 Silk Farm Road  
Concord, NH 03301

603-224-9909 x331



The Honorable Kevin Avar  
Chair, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

February 9, 2021

**RE: SB 115, Establishing Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Goals for the State and Establishing a Climate Action Plan.**

Dear Senator Avar and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Nature Conservancy and NH Audubon in support of SB 115, relative to establishing greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for the state and establishing a climate action plan.

Our organizations support this legislation because the science is clear that in order for New Hampshire to mitigate the impacts of climate change on its citizens, establish a sustainable, vibrant and essential clean energy economy, and ensure a high quality of life, especially for our state's most vulnerable residents, it is critical to set goals in statute to curb emissions and identify a lead agency to achieve and report out on progress toward those goals.

New Hampshire continues to lag behind all of our neighboring New England states in making progress on curbing emissions. Our neighboring states have identified science-based goals/targets and have designated lead agencies or departments - this is what SB 115 seeks to accomplish. The bill simply establishes the science-based goals (that have already been accepted by our neighboring states) in statute and identifies the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services as the agency to take the lead on establishing a process to achieve and report out on these goals.

While it is easy to focus only on the challenges that may come with curbing emissions, our organizations are focused on the benefits curbing emissions will bring to ensuring that our outdoor recreation economy continues to thrive and creating opportunities to establish and incentivize a clean energy economy right here in New Hampshire. Lacking statutory emission reduction goals creates instability and uncertainty for local businesses. Having targets in statute will help to bolster the clean energy economy.

We specifically appreciate the inclusion of lines 21-24 on page 3, which task the Department of Environmental Services with considering the following: *Opportunities to encourage public and private investment toward rural, low-income, low to moderate income, and minority communities in New Hampshire and provide an opportunity for small businesses, schools, affordable housing associations, and other community institutions to participate in and benefit from statewide efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.* Protecting vulnerable and marginalized populations while mitigating the effects of climate change are values our organizations are committed to.

Setting emission reduction goals - specifically achieving net zero emissions by 2050 - is a necessary and achievable step forward for New Hampshire. With that said, The Nature Conservancy and New Hampshire Audubon urge the members of this committee to support SB 115.

Thank you for your time, and we are happy to answer questions.

Sincerely,

Sheila Vargas  
Government and Community Relations Manager  
The Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire

Carol R. Foss  
Senior Advisor for Science and Policy  
New Hampshire Audubon

## Griffin Roberge

---

**From:** Catherine Corkery <catherine.corkery@sierraclub.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2021 8:26 AM  
**To:** Griffin Roberge  
**Subject:** NHSC Corkery SB155 Senate Testimony  
**Attachments:** NHSC SB115 NHSenate testimony.doc

Thank you Griffin for keeping the committees running!

Cathy

--

Catherine M. Corkery  
Chapter Director  
Senior Organizing Representative  
New Hampshire Sierra Club  
40 North Main Street 2 nd Floor  
Concord, NH 03301  
Office: 603-224-8222  
Cell: 603-491-1929  
[catherine.corkery@sierraclub.org](mailto:catherine.corkery@sierraclub.org)  
<http://www.sierraclub.org/new-hampshire>

Pronouns She/Her/Hers

**DONATE TO NH CHAPTER TODAY**

This Organizer is represented by Progressive Workers Union





NH State Senate  
Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
State House  
Concord, NH  
03301

RE: SB115

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Catherine Corkery and I am the chapter director of the NH Chapter of the Sierra Club. I represent over 20,000 members and supporters in the Granite State and appreciate your time and effort to govern in these difficult times. The Chapter is in support of the passage of SB115 concerning greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for the state and establishing a climate action plan.

The Sierra Club supports putting the emissions reduction plan into the law and housing the plan in the Department of Environmental Services because the plan can be maintained and implemented; rather than the current practice of creating a 10-year planning document.

The difference really is between a theoretical plan and putting a plan into action. Towns and cities across the state are searching for methods to become more energy efficient and energy independent. The climate crisis is routinely flooding the roadways and buildings along Hampton Beach. The moose, an icon of the Great North Woods, is disappearing from the forest because ticks are living longer with the warmer temperatures. Energy use and the climate crisis are forever linked because of the greenhouse gases. Now is the time to recognize the enormity of facing the climate crisis by providing leadership from the state.

A climate plan is a great place to start. The center for American Progress issued a report summarizing the different state and city level action across the nation. It can be found here.

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/green/reports/2020/04/30/484163/states-laying-road-map-climate-leadership/>

I am available to assist the committee.

Respectfully,

Catherine M. Corkery  
NH Sierra Club

*The Sierra Club's members are over 2.7 million of your friends and neighbors with over 20,000 in New Hampshire. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet. The Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization.*

New Hampshire Sierra Club 40 North Main Street, Second Floor Concord, NH 03301  
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[www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org) [www.sierraclub.org/new-hampshire](http://www.sierraclub.org/new-hampshire)



## Griffin Roberge

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**From:** Beauchesne, Suzanne <Suzanne.E.Beauchesne@des.nh.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2021 11:45 AM  
**To:** Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Griffin Roberge  
**Cc:** Jeb Bradley; Suzanne Prentiss; Fitzgerald, Michael; Wright, Craig; Skoglund, Chris  
**Subject:** SB 115 - Letter of Testimony Attached  
**Attachments:** SB 115 LOT 020821.pdf

Dear Chairman Avard and Members of the Committee:

Attached is a letter of testimony from the NH Department of Environmental Services on SB 115 relative to establishing greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for the state and establishing a climate action plan. Should you have any questions about this testimony, please feel free to contact either Mike Fitzgerald, Assistant Director, Air Resources Divisions ([Michael.Fitzgerald@des.nh.gov](mailto:Michael.Fitzgerald@des.nh.gov), (603) 271-6390) or Chris Skoglund, Climate and Energy Program Manager, Air Resources Division ([Christopher.Skoglund@des.nh.gov](mailto:Christopher.Skoglund@des.nh.gov), (603) 271-7624). Thank you. Suzanne

Stay Safe! Be Well!

Suzanne Beauchesne  
Assistant to the Commissioner  
NH Department of Environmental Services  
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95  
Concord, NH 03301  
Phone: (603) 271-3449  
[Suzanne.Beauchesne@des.nh.gov](mailto:Suzanne.Beauchesne@des.nh.gov)

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



**Robert R. Scott, Commissioner**

February 8, 2021

The Honorable Kevin Avard  
Chairman, Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 103  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**Re: SB 115, establishing greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for the state and establishing a climate action plan.**

Dear Chairman Avard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 115. This bill establishes short, medium, and long term greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals for New Hampshire, and includes several direct requirements for the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). NHDES takes no position on this bill, but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

This bill specifically requires:

- 1) NHDES to establish and report on an annual GHG emissions inventory (e.g., carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide emissions);
- 2) Certain state agencies to incorporate the GHG emissions reductions goals into "project planning, rulemaking, and funding determinations";
- 3) NHDES to prepare a state climate plan, through a transparent stakeholder process to achieve the GHG goals, and update the plan every five years while reporting on progress semi-annually.

NHDES already requires stationary sources to report on the emissions of other, non-GHG pollutants, and NHDES already calculates an annual sector-based GHG emissions inventory based on commonly defined sectors of the economy and widely-used analytical guidelines. The data for the GHG calculation is primarily obtained annually from the US Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration.

In addition, the State developed a Climate Action Plan,<sup>1</sup> with aspirational goals in 2009. This was an extensive process that included pre-planning during the first half of 2007, along with full-scale planning that ran all of 2008 and into March 2009. The Plan development process was overseen by a 29-member Climate Change Policy Task Force (CCPTF) drawn from the public, private, and non-profit sectors, as well as academia, state agencies, and members of the General Court, and which represented a geographically diverse area. The CCPTF received guidance from six sector-based working groups, composed of 125 individuals, which in turn received considerable analytical support concerning the GHG emissions reduction potential of the more than 100 strategies considered, as well as their costs and benefits. The

<sup>1</sup> CCPTF (2009). 2009 NH Climate Change Action Plan, Climate Change Policy Task Force, <https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/r-ard-09-1.pdf>, (last accessed February 5, 2021).

The Honorable Kevin Avar, Chair  
Energy and Natural Resource Committee  
February 8, 2021

CCPTF also sought extensive public input throughout the process, ranging from briefings for the public at the outset of the process, open CCPTF meetings with public comments, as well as listening sessions held in all corners of the state.

Based on the requirements of this bill, NHDES estimates that at least three (3) full-time-equivalent positions would be necessary for NHDES to fulfill the additional work. While current staff are engaged in tracking the annual emissions of non-GHG pollutants and GHG emissions, additional staff would be needed to plan and manage the incorporation of GHG goals into agency activities. It is likely that the other stated agencies named in the bill would need or benefit from NHDES staff assisting in their own GHG emissions reduction efforts.

Additionally, NHDES staff would need to oversee the process to develop the state climate action plan intended to achieve the state's GHG emissions reduction goals. This includes managing stakeholder engagement and technical analysis. Following the plan's completion, those staff would need to maintain the GHG inventory, and track implementation of the new climate action plan. As written, the Department would be required to track and report on the elements in the plan biennially, and manage an update to the plan every five years. The above requirements exceed the current NHDES staffing capacity.

In addition, the implementation of a climate plan will very likely have an economic impact on the state, influencing energy costs for residents, businesses, and manufacturers as well as towns, schools, counties, and the state, as well as resulting in workforce changes. To understand the implications of the GHG emissions reductions required to meet the targets in this bill, the development of the new climate action plan by 2023, and then again every five years, would strongly benefit from the support of a technical consultant. Such a consultant would be necessary to evaluate the emissions-reduction potential, as well as the costs and benefits of the GHG emissions reductions strategies considered during the plan's development. The consultants that took part in the development of the 2009 NH Climate Action Plan and the 2014 State Energy Strategy<sup>2</sup> were invaluable in assuring that those plans included strategies that provided a substantial positive net economic benefit to the state.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on SB 115. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact either Mike Fitzgerald, Assistant Director, Air Resources Divisions ([Michael.Fitzgerald@des.nh.gov](mailto:Michael.Fitzgerald@des.nh.gov), (603) 271-6390) or Chris Skoglund, Climate and Energy Program Manager, Air Resources Division ([Christopher.Skoglund@des.nh.gov](mailto:Christopher.Skoglund@des.nh.gov), (603) 271-7624).

Sincerely,



Robert R. Scott  
Commissioner

cc: Sponsors of HB 115: Senators Prentiss, Watters, Perkins Kwoka, and Bradley

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<sup>2</sup> EAC (2014). [2014 New Hampshire State Energy Strategy](https://www.nh.gov/osi/energy/programs/documents/energy-strategy.pdf), NH Energy Advisory Council, <https://www.nh.gov/osi/energy/programs/documents/energy-strategy.pdf>, (last accessed February 5, 2021).

## **Griffin Roberge**

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**From:** Cynthia Walter <walter.atherton@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2021 7:32 PM  
**To:** Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters  
**Subject:** SB115-Climate solutions-testimony Walter

2-8-21

To Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,

I heartily endorse SB 115 because this bill signals NH is open for clean energy businesses in competition with our neighbors, and because our inactions regarding greenhouse gases (GHG) are harming the health and home budget of every Granite Stater. Opponents of this bill might predict some undesirable costs, but we must measure real costs we now bear and proven\* benefits of reducing GHG.

The list below comes from my experiences as a biology professor and resident with family here, together with real-life evidence from my students and colleagues. I list examples of real costs of inaction and benefits of passing SB115.

### **COSTS OF CLIMATE INACTION THAT GRANITE STATERS NOW BEAR**

#### **Real costs of serious diseases:**

**Lyme disease** because more ticks emerge in warmer spring weather

**Mosquito diseases** (e.g., West Nile) when more southern mosquitos travel here

**Asthma attacks** when more hot days combine with air pollution from fossil fuels

#### **Real costs of significant losses in NH harvests**

**Fish populations** decline because fish are oxygen starved in warmer waters

**Tree health** declines because heat-stressed trees succumb to pests and disease

**Drought** limits NH local food production (e.g., 2020)

**Flooding** causes millions in property damage and billions in road work (e.g., many examples)

## **Real costs of rising seas**

Coastal **property values disappear**

**Drinking water wells** contaminated with salt water **decrease property values**

## **PROVEN\* BENEFITS OF REDUCING GHG**

### **Benefits right away: Health Savings for NH**

- Better air from decreased fossil fuels means fewer respiratory ER visits, e.g., reduced asthma, heart attacks and pre-mature deaths
- Workers in unhealthy, dangerous jobs using fossil fuels find healthier, safer jobs in renewable energy & energy efficiency

### **Near-term benefits from reduced GHG: Time for NH to Adapt**

- Time to stabilize coastal properties and property values
- Time to protect drinking water supplies from salt water
- Time to adapt local crops to warming weather
- Time to install flood resilience measures

\*Proof comes from independent, peer-reviewed research of other states that enacted work set forth in SB115. Contact me if you wish to see some of these documents.

Regards,  
Cynthia Walter, Ph.D.  
22 West Concord St.  
Dover, NH 03820

412-610-4327  
[cawalter22@gmail.com](mailto:cawalter22@gmail.com) and alternate [walter.atherton@gmail.com](mailto:walter.atherton@gmail.com)

P.S. Please see below for comments on specific sections of SB115.

“125-O:30 Climate Action Plan.

I. The public policy of the state of New Hampshire shall be to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions to: (a) At least 20 percent below 1990 levels by 2025; (b) At least 50 percent below 1990 levels by 2035; and (c) Net zero by 2050,”

These goals match those of other states and are needed to keep NH competitive for new energy jobs and supply chains.

“II. All state agencies with jurisdiction over activities that impact greenhouse gas emissions shall incorporate these goals into their project planning, rulemaking, and funding determinations going forward.”

Coordination of state agencies is the most efficient path forward and is used by other states as well.

“III. Beginning in calendar year 2022, the commissioner of the department of environmental services shall submit an annual greenhouse gas inventory report

(b) Separately identify the greenhouse gas contribution of each of the major sectors of the New Hampshire economy.”

Such inventories for the state and each sector are necessary and feasible. Software programs make this task workable and scientifically verifiable.

“IV.(a) By July 1, 2023, the department of environmental services shall, after a period of public comment, prepare and adopt a plan for achieving the limits and interim limits established pursuant to paragraph I. This plan shall be reviewed and updated by the department every 5 years. (b) In developing this plan, the department shall:

(4) Recommend how the state could provide retraining and apprenticeship opportunities for those affected by the required changes.”

These recommendations must become real world actions to provide paying apprenticeships and good quality jobs. This has happened in other states and needs to happen in NH.

“(5) Consult with the public utilities commission, the department of transportation, the department of agriculture, markets and food, and the office of strategic initiatives throughout the plan development process to ensure the greenhouse gas emissions reduction activities to be adopted and implemented by the department are complementary, non-duplicative, and can be implemented in an efficient and cost-effective manner.”

The key word key above is consultation. The named institutions should become partners, not opponent. They should not be able to seriously delay actions if we are to meet our goals and bring new jobs and new energy to NH in a timely manner.

## Griffin Roberge

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**From:** David Creer <dcreer@biaofnh.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 08, 2021 4:36 PM  
**To:** Griffin Roberge  
**Subject:** SB115 Testimony  
**Attachments:** SB115 Testimony.pdf

Hi Griffin,

Attached is written testimony to accompany my oral testimony for tomorrow's hearing on SB115.

Thank you,  
Dave

**David J. Creer**  
Director of Public Policy



603-224-5388 x112 | (m) 603-931-2444  
[dcreer@BIAofNH.com](mailto:dcreer@BIAofNH.com)

122 North Main Street, Concord, NH 03301

[BIAofNH.com](http://BIAofNH.com)

Check out BIA's [COVID-19 Information & Resources for Employers](#) packed with targeted information and resources for employers and employees.



**BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION**  
New Hampshire's Statewide  
Chamber of Commerce

**Testimony of David Creer**  
**Business & Industry Association**  
**SB115**  
**Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee**  
**February 9, 2021**

Dear Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I'm David Creer and I'm director of public policy for the Business and Industry Association (BIA), New Hampshire's statewide chamber of commerce and leading business advocate. The BIA represents more than 400 members in a variety of industries. Member firms employ 89,000 people throughout the state, which represents one in seven jobs, and contribute \$4.5 billion annually to the state's economy. I am here this morning in opposition to SB115.

BIA believes a thorough cost-benefit analysis is a prerequisite for any state strategy to address climate change to ensure that a reasonable solution to climate change is achieved without damaging the economy. During the second half of last year, an Ad Hoc Emissions Commission heard about the health impacts and severity of the effects of climate change, but at no point did it discuss costs associated with reaching target emissions goals. Those costs would be borne by ratepayers, including residential customers, automobile, truck and fleet owners, commercial property owners, and manufacturers (New Hampshire's most important economic sector). A bill to continue that commission's work has been introduced, and BIA recommended that the commission also conduct a thorough economic cost-benefit analysis as part of its study.

This concludes my testimony and I am happy to address any questions from the committee.



## Griffin Roberge

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**From:** Douglas Marino <doug@603forward.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2021 2:03 PM  
**To:** Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Griffin Roberge  
**Subject:** Written Testimony in Favor of SB 115

Thank you Chairman Avard and members of the committee,

My name is Doug Marino, I am the Advocacy and Engagement Director for 603 Forward. 603 Forward is an advocacy organization whose aim is to educate, engage, and activate the youth of New Hampshire to take political action at the state and local level. I am writing to you today to express our organization's support for SB 115.

I want to thank Senator Prentiss for bringing this critically important bill forward. Climate change is an existential threat facing the youth of New Hampshire. Communities in New Hampshire, particularly on the seacoast, are very much at risk as sea levels continue to rise. New Hampshire is also at risk for longer and more intense heat waves which threaten New Hampshire's agricultural sector. This year, we have seen the devastating impacts of climate change through the drought that significantly impacted New Hampshire's environment as well as our economy.

In order to make New Hampshire a viable place for young people to live, we have to take immediate action to combat climate change. The goals laid out in SB 115 represent substantial steps in the right direction. It's not only the morally right thing to do, it is an economic necessity. I applaud the Senate for hearing this bill and I strongly urge you to support its passage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Doug Marino  
Advocacy and Engagement Director  
603 Forward  
603.686.3283  
[doug@603forward.org](mailto:doug@603forward.org)

--

Doug Marino  
He, Him, His  
Advocacy and Engagement Director  
603 Forward  
603.686.3283  
[doug@603forward.org](mailto:doug@603forward.org)  
@Doug\_Marino

## Griffin Roberge

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**From:** Leslie Anderson <leslie@pgane.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2021 8:58 AM  
**To:** Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters  
**Subject:** Testimony SB115  
**Attachments:** SB115 Establishing ghg goals and climate action plan.pdf; Propane\_emPowers\_12-26.pdf

Good morning,

Attached is my testimony in opposition to SB115. Our association represents over 40 NH alternative energy businesses with over 2,700 green jobs.

Thank you for your consideration.

**LESLIE ANDERSON**

President & CEO

**PROPANE GAS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ENGLAND**

PO Box 1071

1024 Suncook Valley Highway, CS

Epsom, NH 03234

O: 888-445-1075 C:207-745-5969

[leslie@pgane.org](mailto:leslie@pgane.org)

[www.pgane.org](http://www.pgane.org)



1024 Suncook Valley Hwy, C5  
PO Box 1071  
Epsom, NH 03234

**February 9, 2021**

**TESTIMONY OF LESLIE ANDERSON**

President and CEO of the Propane Gas Association of New England

**BEFORE THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Concerning SB 115 An Act Establishing Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Goals for the State and Establishing a Climate Action Plan**

The Propane Gas Association of New England (PGANE) is pleased to have the opportunity to offer its comments regarding An Act Establishing Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Goals for the State and Establishing a Climate Action Plan.

PGANE is a regional alternative energy trade association representing members of the propane industry in the six New England States. We exist to serve the propane industry by promoting safety, education and public awareness of the uses of propane. Our membership includes propane companies and suppliers, including numerous small companies who are often family owned and operated, many for several generations. Propane on demand hot water heaters, cooktops, and furnaces produce less greenhouse gas emissions than electric heat pumps, as well as less nitrogen and less sulfur oxides. In fact, propane is the preferred partner with solar for zero net energy housing. Comparing electricity and propane with a lifecycle analysis, propane wins hands down with the lowest carbon emissions.

Promoting electrification over the use of propane would be detrimental to the overall goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, promoting electrification and expanding its use will make New Hampshire more vulnerable to climate impacts. If electricity dependence is going to increase throughout New Hampshire, it is imperative that the legislature partner with an energy source that will further the state's energy security and resiliency needs. Propane is the perfect partner for resiliency needs. Propane is an EPA certified alternative fuel and a federally certified emergency civil defense energy.

Using propane furthers the fundamental environmental goal to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle as promoted by EPA and DES. Most people do not realize that propane is a beneficial byproduct of natural gas processing. About 5% of natural gas processing produces propane. If propane is not captured and beneficially used to offset another energy source, it is simply burned off. Indeed, there is a global surplus of propane because natural gas is being used so much around the world in place of coal and other dirty energy sources. Thus, propane should be promoted as key component of New Hampshire's energy strategy, since reuse of this underutilized byproduct is essentially carbon neutral (surplus byproduct is wasted energy).

We disagree with several of the assertions in Section III of this bill. In particular, “zero emission energy sources” is a misnomer. There are carbon impacts from all energy sources, whether it be from the coal generated power plant used to construct the steel for wind turbine blades, or the electricity generated from natural gas plants. Electric batteries require heavy metals, and cobalt and lithium are not renewable. The New Hampshire approach to climate should be holistic and look at a diverse energy plan that includes multiple low carbon energy sources to form its climate solution.

Solar and wind will require energy storage and if we limit our energy sources we do so at the risk of causing harm. Propane is a perfect partner with renewable energy as it is the cleanest backup for solar installations and wind turbines. Unlike toxic battery storage, propane is a recognized clean alternative fuel by EPA under the 1990 Clean Air Act, and it is an essential backup for our ever-increasing use of the electric grid. Propane is nontoxic and has no ozone depleting chemicals, unlike electricity transformers which contain SF6 the most potent of all greenhouse gases.

Renewable propane is also a viable innovation and under development from algae sources. Renewable propane is also being produced today from bio sources in Louisiana, California, and Europe. As the biofuels industry continues to develop and create greater volumes, traditional propane can be replaced with renewable propane without any change to equipment. Today, renewable propane use is not even necessary, because traditional propane is an underutilized resource. The reason propane is underutilized is because so much of it is available due to the increase in natural gas energy power plants replacing coal and nuclear power plants. Indeed, here in New England over 50 percent of our electric grid energy comes from natural gas. Thus, if we are truly going to be good environmental stewards, we should be reusing this beneficial byproduct.

We support the goals of this act to consider the largest possible greenhouse gas emissions reductions in the most cost-effective manner, and the importance of resiliency and energy security. Propane is a proven solution for transportation emissions. Around the globe, propane is the highest used alternative fuel for transportation. Propane school buses are proven solutions for rural states. Propane buses cost one third the price of an electric bus and start at forty-five below zero without engine warmers. To meet resiliency and sustainability goals, many are utilizing propane vehicles to lower carbon emissions and provide security when electricity, gasoline, and diesel are unavailable.

Resiliency and energy security are of fundamental importance in protecting the critical infrastructure within the state, ranging from commercial and municipal needs such as backup power generation for hospitals to residential needs such as boiling water and cooking food. To ensure the safety of our citizens, when there are electrical disruptions from winter storms, climate disasters, or cyber terrorism, it is essential that the state promote an energy like propane, which is sustainable, green, and resilient. For this reason, propane needs to be an integral part of the New Hampshire climate plan.

Our industry is concerned about the environment and is actively working to reduce carbon emissions. The propane industry is reducing millions of tons of carbon emissions each year. Across the globe, propane is being used to solve the world’s greatest health threat, indoor air pollution caused primarily by burning wood for

cooking and heating. Over 3.5 million people die annually from cooking with solid fuels. This leads to deforestation at an alarming rate in many developing countries and causes enormous carbon dioxide emissions. Moving one family from wood to propane saves over one ton of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. In India, the propane industry has partnered with the Indian government to move 3 million people annually from solid fuels to propane, saving over 3 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year for the last three years. In addition, moving 50 families to propane from wood saves an acre of rainforest land. **Across the globe propane is being used improve human health, reduce carbon emissions, and reduce deforestation.** Propane is also literally improving the lives of women around the globe. Once women and girls switch from gathering wood, an activity that takes up to six hours per day and is fraught with danger including snake bite and rape, women are freed to become educated, and spend more quality time with their children. New Hampshire needs to join in this effort recognized by many countries around the globe, and partner with propane as a solution for reducing carbon dioxide emissions!

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the committee vote No on SB 115 and consider amending future the climate bills to include the suggestions that we have proposed.

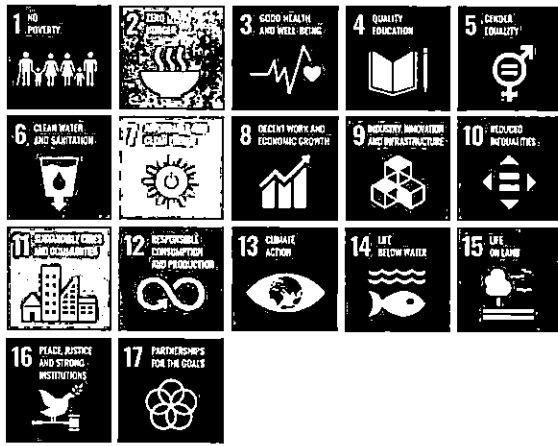
# PROPANE EMPOWERS

In the developing world, propane provides impoverished families with universal access to sustainable energy for heating and cooking, saving the lives of millions of women and children while **fueling the fight for gender equality.**

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

### PROPANE FURTHERS U.N. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2015, United Nations Member States approved the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development providing a global "blueprint for action" on an urgent range of initiatives. Within this agenda, are 17 Sustainable Development Goals, including affordable and clean energy, quality education, gender equality, and climate action among others. Leaders and citizens of the developing world recognize propane as an invaluable alternative to deforestation and dirty heating/cooking. Propane can help nations achieve many, if not all, of the UN goals.



### SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL

*"Three billion people need clean cooking solutions and their economic success is a hugely exciting investment opportunity. Propane is an exceptional part of that opportunity... Imagine if we can create vibrant markets for clean fuels for the 20 countries where 84% of those three billion people live. We would be advancing progress on the Sustainable Development Goals on health, poverty, women, children, environment, deforestation, energy and climate."*

**RACHEL KATE**  
Special Representative of UN Secretary-General | CEO, Sustainable Energy for All

### ACCESS TO CLEAN, AFFORDABLE ENERGY

Approximately 3 billion people around the world live without access to non-solid fuel sources and instead rely on dangerous, carbon-heavy firewood, charcoal or animal dung for heating and cooking. This causes them to inhale carcinogenic smoke, which results in over 4 million premature deaths worldwide, mostly women and children.



### IMPROVING HEALTH & SAVING LIVES

*"When you cook with firewood, smoke enters your eyes. My children cough because of the smoke. When you cook with gas, you feel nothing."*

CAMEROON WOMAN WHO ADOPTED PROPANE COOKING THROUGH THE "BOTTLED GAS FOR BETTER LIFE" PROGRAM.



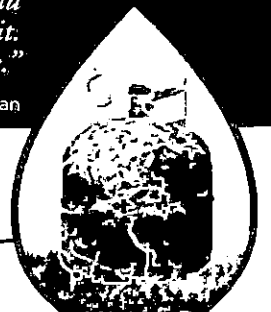
### HEALTH, EDUCATION & SAFETY

In areas like developing Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, the chore of drudging home heavy firewood falls on women and girls. This can take them up to six hours a day and exposes them to any number of dangers ranging from snakebite to sexual assault. The workload also prevents girls from getting an education.

### CHANGING GENDER ROLES

*"I spent 3-4 hours cooking before. Now, in one hour I can do everything. I recommend propane to my friends. I tell them it has been a benefit and they should go and get it. With propane, my husband is now willing to help me."*

FATIMA SULIMAN AHMED | Darfur, Sudan



# PGANE

Green Sustainable Energy

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# PROPANE EMPOWERS

The movement to switch families in developing countries from coal and wood to propane cooking is actively preventing global deforestation, saving millions of trees per year while significantly reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions.

## SAVING TREES



*Propane can help stop global deforestation and save the trees.*

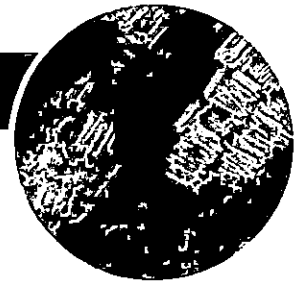
The world loses an area of forest equal to the size of Connecticut, New Hampshire and Maine each year. The vast majority of this deforestation occurs in Latin America, Southeast Asia and parts of Africa, where wood is used for heating and cooking.

In Ghana, the switch to clean and portable propane stoves is projected to save up to 221 million trees over 10 years. For every 50 families that switch from wood to propane cooking, one acre of global forestland is preserved.

## FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE

*By saving trees, propane eliminates greenhouse gas emissions.*

Forests and tree cover are necessary for preventing harmful greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide from reaching the atmosphere. In Guinea and Sierra Leone, deforestation has caused CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to increase by more than 470% from 2014-2018.



Ghana's switch to propane cooking is projected to eliminate up to 9.3 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and up to 16.6 million metric tons of black carbon emissions. Next to CO<sub>2</sub>, black carbon is recognized as the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading global warming agent.

## A QUICK, SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION



*Propane is an easy, affordable solution for the world's climate and energy crisis.*

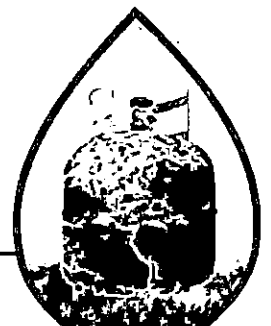
Globally, up to 25% of black carbon emissions come from burning coal and wood for heating, cooking and electricity. In 2018, the U.S. used carbon-heavy coal to power 28% of our electricity.

The International Energy Agency projects that *1.4 Billion people* in the developing world can transition to propane cooking over the next 10 years. Countries like India, Indonesia and El Salvador demonstrate how quickly and sustainably propane adoption may be scaled up across national territories.

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# Voting Sheets



# Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee

## EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD

*2021-2022 Session*

Bill # **SB 115**

Hearing Date: 02/09/2021

Executive Session Date: 03/01/2021

Motion of: ITL Vote: 3-2

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Avard, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Giuda, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Gray	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Watters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins Kwoka	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Motion of: \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Avard, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Giuda, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Gray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Watters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins Kwoka	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion of: \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Avard, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Giuda, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Gray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Watters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins Kwoka	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Motion of: \_\_\_\_\_ Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member	Present	Made by	Second	Yes	No
Sen. Avard, Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Giuda, Vice Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Gray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Watters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Perkins Kwoka	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Reported out by: Gray

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

# Committee Report

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SENATE

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

Monday, March 1, 2021

THE COMMITTEE ON Energy and Natural Resources

to which was referred **SB 115**

AN ACT

establishing greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for the state and establishing a climate action plan.

Having considered the same, the committee recommends that the Bill

**IS INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**

BY A VOTE OF: 3-2

Senator James Gray  
For the Committee

Griffin Roberge 271-3042

**ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**SB 115**, establishing greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for the state and establishing a climate action plan.

Inexpedient to Legislate, Vote 3-2.

Senator James Gray for the committee.

# Docket of SB115

Docket Abbreviations

**Bill Title:** establishing greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for the state and establishing a climate action plan.

Official Docket of **SB115**:

Date	Body	Description
1/29/2021	S	<b>Introduced</b> 01/06/2021 and Referred to Energy and Natural Resources; <b>SJ 3</b>
2/4/2021	S	Remote <b>Hearing:</b> 02/09/2021, 09:20 am; Links to join the hearing can be found in the Senate Calendar; <b>SC 10</b>
3/2/2021	S	Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate, 03/11/2021; <b>SC 14</b>
3/11/2021	S	Inexpedient to Legislate, <b>RC</b> 14Y-10N, MA === BILL KILLED ===; 03/11/2021; <b>SJ 7</b>

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NH House

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NH Senate

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# Other Referrals

## Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives

Bill Number: SB 115

Senate Committee: ENR

Please include all documents in the order listed below and indicate the documents which have been included with an "X" beside

Final docket found on Bill Status

### Bill Hearing Documents: (Legislative Aides)

Bill version as it came to the committee

All Calendar Notices

Hearing Sign-up sheet(s)

Prepared testimony, presentations, & other submissions handed in at the public hearing

Hearing Report

N/A Revised/Amended Fiscal Notes provided by the Senate Clerk's Office

### Committee Action Documents: (Legislative Aides)

All amendments considered in committee (including those not adopted):

\_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_

Executive Session Sheet

Committee Report

### Floor Action Documents: (Clerk's Office)

All floor amendments considered by the body during session (only if they are offered to the senate):

\_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_ - amendment # \_\_\_\_\_

### Post Floor Action: (if applicable) (Clerk's Office)

\_\_\_ Committee of Conference Report (if signed off by all members. Include any new language proposed by the committee of conference):

\_\_\_ Enrolled Bill Amendment(s)

\_\_\_ Governor's Veto Message

### All available versions of the bill: (Clerk's Office)

\_\_\_ as amended by the senate      \_\_\_ as amended by the house

\_\_\_ final version

Completed Committee Report File Delivered to the Senate Clerk's Office By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Aide

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Senate Clerk's Office \_\_\_\_\_