

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

HB614

Bill as
Introduced

HB 614-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

24Feb2021... 0156h

6Jan2022... 2238h

2021 SESSION

21-0468

10/06

HOUSE BILL **614-FN**

AN ACT exempting the state and political subdivisions from payment of the costs of compliance with the renewable portfolio standard.

SPONSORS: Rep. Vose, Rock. 9; Rep. Pearl, Merr. 26; Rep. Lang, Belk. 4; Rep. Cordelli, Carr. 4; Rep. Harvey-Bolia, Belk. 4; Rep. Edwards, Rock. 4; Rep. Binford, Graf. 15

COMMITTEE: Science, Technology and Energy

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill requires that the state and political subdivisions be exempted from paying the portion of electricity rates that cover the costs of compliance with the renewable portfolio standards unless opting in to payment of such costs of compliance.

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Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

HB 614-FN - AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

25Feb2021... 0156h
6Jan2022... 2238h

21-0468
10/06

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty One

AN ACT exempting the state and political subdivisions from payment of the costs of compliance with the renewable portfolio standard.

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

1 1 New Paragraph; Electrical Rates and Charges; Exemption For State and Political
2 Subdivisions. Amend RSA 378:49 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

3 IV.(a) The public utilities commission shall, after notice and hearing, by order or rule,
4 approve a standard format and methodology that providers of electricity, as defined in RSA 362-F:2,
5 XIV, shall use in exempting the state and its political subdivisions from paying the portion of
6 electricity rates that covers the cost of compliance with the renewable portfolio standard (RPS)
7 under RSA 362-F. A political subdivision shall initially be in exempt status unless the governing
8 body of the political subdivision subsequently chooses to opt in under subparagraph (c).

9 (b) Providers of electricity shall not be subject to compliance under RSA 362-F:3 for
10 electricity sales that have been exempted pursuant to subparagraph (a).

11 (c) By October 15 of each year, each provider of electricity doing business with political
12 subdivisions of the state shall notify these entities of their current opt-out/opt-in status. Any
13 political subdivision, by a majority vote of its governing body, may elect to opt-in to continue
14 payment of the amounts identified as costs of compliance with the renewable portfolio standard
15 under RSA 362-F. Otherwise, the subdivision will remain exempt under subparagraph (a).
16 Reversing this opt-in decision also requires a majority vote of the governing body.

17 (d) For purposes of this paragraph, "political subdivision" means any electricity account
18 holder that operates as an agency of the state, a county, a municipality, a school district, or a village
19 district.

20 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

LBA
21-0468
1/13/21

**HB 614-FN- FISCAL NOTE
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT exempting the state and political subdivisions from payment of the costs of compliance with the renewable portfolio standard.

FISCAL IMPACT: State County Local None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue	\$0	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable	Indeterminable	Indeterminable
Funding Source:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Highway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - Renewable Energy Fund			

LOCAL:

Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Expenditures	\$0	Indeterminable Decrease	Indeterminable Decrease	Indeterminable Decrease

METHODOLOGY:

This bill exempts the state and political subdivisions from paying the portion of electricity rates that covers the cost of compliance with the renewable portfolio standard (RPS). Providers of electricity shall recover those payments by subtracting exempted amounts from alternative compliance payments to the renewable energy fund.

The PUC states it will be required to develop and approve a standard that electricity providers must use to exempt the State and political subdivisions from paying these costs. The governing body of a political subdivisions will be able to continue participation in the RPS by paying for these compliance costs via their electric bills but the State would not be able to elect this option. There may be some decrease in the electric bills of the State and political subdivisions who do not opt out of the exemption. The PUC does not know which suppliers serve which political subdivisions or the amount of energy purchases by any political subdivision. There may be a decrease in funds allocated to the Renewable Energy Fund.

RPS compliance costs include both the cost of renewable energy certificates (RECs) purchased from renewable energy facilities through the regional market and the cost of alternative compliance payments (ACPs) paid to the Commission in lieu of such REC purchases. Providers

of electricity must either purchase RECs or make an ACP to satisfy the RPS statutory requirements. ACPs fund the Renewable Energy Fund (REF), which in turn, through Commission-approved rebate and grant programs, provides incentives for renewable energy project development within the State. Although it appears electricity providers are intended to be protected from incurring the cost of the RPS exemption, the bill does not clearly include the cost of REC's as a compliance cost to be subtracted from an electricity provider's cost of the exemption.

The Municipal Association does not have information on the total electricity costs paid by municipalities or the amount of those costs for compliance, so any impact on municipal expenditures from this bill is indeterminable.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

New Hampshire Municipal Association and Public Utilities Commission

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: March 16, 2022

HEARINGS

Tuesday		03/22/2022
(Day)		(Date)
Energy and Natural Resources		State House 103
(Name of Committee)		(Place)
		9:00 a.m.
		(Time)
9:00 a.m.	HB 614-FN	exempting the state and political subdivisions from payment of the costs of compliance with the renewable portfolio standard.
9:15 a.m.	HB 624-FN	relative to site evaluation committee monitoring and enforcement responsibilities.
9:30 a.m.	HB 1230-FN	permitting online presentation of deer for registration.
9:45 a.m.	HB 1420-FN	prohibiting the issuance of new landfill permits until the state's solid waste plan is updated.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY FOLLOW

Sponsors:

HB 614-FN

Rep. Vose

Rep. Harvey-Bolia

HB 624-FN

Rep. Vose

HB 1230-FN

Rep. Pearl

HB 1420-FN

Rep. Massimilla

Sen. Hennessey

Rep. Pearl

Rep. Edwards

Rep. Thomas

Rep. Cambrils

Rep. Thompson

Rep. Lang

Rep. Binford

Sen. Ward

Rep. Burroughs

Rep. Cordelli

Sen. Giuda

Rep. Theberge

Daley Frenette 271-3042

Kevin A. Avard
Chairman

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Daley Frenette 271-3042

HB 614-FN, exempting the state and political subdivisions from payment of the costs of compliance with the renewable portfolio standard.

Hearing Date: March 22, 2022

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

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Giuda

Bill Analysis: This bill requires that the state and political subdivisions be exempted from paying the portion of electricity rates that cover the costs of compliance with the renewable portfolio standards unless opting in to payment of such costs of compliance.

Sponsors:

Rep. Vose
Rep. Cordelli
Rep. Binford

Rep. Pearl
Rep. Harvey-Bolia

Rep. Lang
Rep. Edwards

Who supports the bill: Representative Vose, Rockingham-District 9, Representative Thomas, Strafford-District 20, Eric Pauer.

Who opposes the bill: Kathy Fox, Great River Hydro, Michelle Veasey, NHBSR, Kelly Buchanan, CENH, Heidi Kroll, Granite State Hydropower Association and Monadnock Paper Mills, Jason Stock, NHTOA, Rebecca Owens, Paul Doscher, Amy Farnham, Nate Hathaway, Richard Byrd, Sean Guidera, Tom Pfau, Barbara Callaway, Alan Callaway, Kimberly Quirk, Sharon Racusin, Evan Oxenham, Jean Deupree, Margaret Jernstedt, Christian Jernstedt, David Webb, Carolyn Gordon, Priscilla Benson, Robert Harrington, Kathryn Aman, Lisa Sweet, Joanne Hayes, Talia Manning, Perry Williamson, Amber Barnato, Jessica Dunbar, Anthony Raimondo, Coeli Hoover, Wayne Smith, Marjorie Shepardson, Patricia Beffa-Negrini, Taylor Levesque, Catherine Bushueff, Jessica LaMontagne, Karen Contos, Chuck Rhoades, Richard Spence, Susan Spence, Constance Carey, Janet Insolia, Maureen Sullivan, Jennifer Rickards, Bill Baber, Kenneth Grossman, Heidi Henninger, Judith Saum, Craig Lazinsky, John Tuthill, Adam Scalise, Lee Arend, Jonathan Glass, Jane Crandell-Glass, Patricia Martin, Lynn Merlone, Anne Thomas, Doug Bogen, Alvin See, Julia Thompson, Howard Kalet, Cora Quisumbing-King, Susan Richman, James Verschueren, Deborah Leavitt, Catherine Corkery, NH Sierra Club.

Who is neutral on the bill: Josh Elliot, Department of Energy, Huck Montgomery, Liberty Utilities, Donna Gamache, Eversource.

Summary of testimony presented:

Representative Vose, Rockingham-District 9

- HB 614-FN has passed the House of Representatives twice. It went through the House Science, Technology, and Energy Committee as well as the House Ways and Means Committee where it was scrutinized before being passed. The House Ways and Means Committee determined that the bill is financially solid, provides benefits, and does not harm the renewable energy fund.
- The bill provides an exemption for political subdivisions which are defined as cities, towns, school districts, etc., from paying the RPS which is the portion of electric rates that is used by the utilities to defray their costs for complying with the RPS.
- In addition to a provision for exempting those charges, it also provides a way for cities and towns to opt-into paying the should they so choose. It also exempts and removes or removes from the obligation of the utilities to pay those exempt kilowatt hours. This means that there is no cost shifting involved to other customers because of the exemption of those RPS charges. The benefit of this is that it will reduce the costs to municipalities, school districts, and other political subdivisions. How they choose to use those saved costs is up to them. They could pass the savings along to taxpayers or use them to pay for other budgetary items that they need to pay for. Either way it will save taxpayers money.
- In 2020, New Hampshire used 10,539,840 kilowatt hours of electricity according to the PUC. The state paid an estimated 508,702 dollars in RPS charges. Manchester and Nashua could save 100-200 thousand dollars by not having to pay the RPS. A smaller town such as Epping could save about 3,000 dollars a year by not having to pay those charges.
- One issue is that currently, many political subdivisions buy their electricity from a competitive supplier. Competitive suppliers are not regulated by the PUC and as a result, no one knows whether or not these competitive suppliers are paying the RPS that they are supposed to be paying or if they are doing it uniformly. This means that some of the potential savings this bill aims to achieve may not actually materialize.
- Another issue is that the definition of political subdivision does not actually include community aggregations. Community aggregations under RSA 53-E could be a collection of towns that get together to pool their electricity load requirements and purchase that on the wholesale market. The question is whether or not a group of towns that get together for that purpose are considered a political subdivision. This issue could be addressed with an amendment.

- Senator Watters asked if there has been a great deal of concern around this issue in the State. Representative Vose clarified that when he talks to folks in his district and around New Hampshire about the cost of electricity, he is often asked if there is anything he can do to lower the cost of electricity. HB 614-FN is one option that would lower electricity costs. HB 315 was passed last year and it contained a group host net metering provision for municipalities which was done to lower electricity costs for municipalities. HB 614 is filed with the same goal of lowering electricity costs for municipalities. A lower cost for running a municipality correlates with lower taxes for taxpayers.
- Senator Watters stated that he is concerned with the issue of the definition of political subdivision. It is an important issue and he is concerned that the bill may undermine the work that has already been done on community aggregation. Representative Vose agreed that it is important to address that issue of community aggregation. The question is whether a group of communities is considered a political subdivision. We must figure out a way to broaden that definition to include that.
- Senator Watters asked if given the broadly embraced public good aspects of 362-F, had Representative Vose considered making it opt-out instead of opt-in. Representative Vose clarified that it was discussed in the House Science, Technology and Energy Committee. Ultimately, they decided that opt-in was the best option given the relatively small number of entities involved. They also considered the amount of paperwork and administrative overhead that cities and towns would have to deal with to participate in the program.
- Senator Perkins Kwoka stated that bringing renewable energy into the generation mix will have a long-term effect of lowering the cost of electricity by distributing our generation by creating competition in our electricity market, building out the grid and New Hampshire's ability to support renewable energy. HB 614-FN seems to be a short-term answer to save money while ignoring the opportunity to invest in the long-term goal of saving electricity costs. Representative Vose stated that the market will sort out that issue. Historically speaking, renewable energy has not lowered the cost of electricity and has actually had the opposite effect. In most places that have aggressively adopted renewable energy and provided a lot of subsidies, it has not lowered the cost of electricity. It may lower costs eventually in the future as fossil fuels become more scarce causing prices to go up. When we reach that point, it is possible that renewables will become more cost effective. Overall, the market will sort this out and we do not want to put our thumb on the scale too heavily. Examples from Germany and the UK have shown that it can significantly increase costs which has a strong deleterious effect on the economy. This is not something we want to do in New Hampshire. New Hampshire has the advantage of a very strong economy. We pursue policies deliberately and cautiously which contributes to New Hampshire having the best economy in New England by several measures.

HB 614-FN will help perpetuate that advantage and will not necessarily impede the move towards renewable energy because the market will sort itself out.

- Senator Perkins Kwoka asked if the definition of political subdivision could be narrowed without having to much technical effect. It seems that the intent of the bill is to lower costs for municipalities. She asked if entities such as school districts or village districts are typically acting independently to purchase their energy or if municipalities are responsible for that. Representative Vose stated that that would vary from district to district. He believes that some districts do purchase their electricity separate from the towns or municipalities in which they are located. Other districts may not, so that would be up to the local district and the local municipality.
- Senator Avard asked how Representative Vose found the information regarding the costs that cities such as Nashua are paying for electricity. Representative Vose stated that he went to the websites of the Cities of Manchester and Nashua and looked at their budgets. Both cities provide the information as a line item in their budgets. The information is listed by department, so he added all the data up to get the total. What he found was that either in 2019 or 2020, Nashua paid approximately 3.5 million dollars on electricity while Manchester paid over 4 million. Based on the price of electricity, he then calculated the kilowatt hours and multiplied it by the RPS recovery charge which is listed in utility rate cases. Senator Avard asked if Representative Vose had shared the information with the Municipal Association. He had not but stated that he was willing to.
- Senator Avard asked if the cost of fossil fuels has gone up. Representative Vose stated that they have recently.
- Senator Avard asked how the bill would affect transmission rates. Representative Vose stated that he does not believe that it will affect the transmission rates at all. He added that transmission rates have stayed relatively the same over the past 20-25 years. Transmission charges are based on the amount of electricity that a state uses and the small amount of revenue that would be exempted by the bill would not have any impact on transmission charges. He added that there is a perception that the bill allows towns to opt-in or opt-out of paying the RPS and there is a perception that towns will take advantage of the system by switching whether they are in or out in order to apply for grants from the renewable energy fund. Representative Vose stated that he scoured RSA 362-F and the PUC's rule 2508.02 on how the renewable energy fund works. There are seven criteria in the rules for how a project could qualify for the renewable energy fund and there is nothing in there that says you have to be paying your RPS in order to qualify. There is nothing in law that prohibits towns such as Wolfeboro or Lancaster who do not pay the RPS from applying from renewable energy grants.
- Senator Avard stated that New Hampshire encourages business and there have been people who have invested in renewable energy in the state. He asked Representative Vose if the bill undermines those investments by changing the

rules over time. Representative Vose stated that it does not do that, rather it helps define the rules so people will know what they are signing up for. It also improves the environment for municipal taxpayers by relieving some of the cost of electricity. There are five municipal electric utilities in the state. They keep their rates low by not charging their customers for the RPS or for the system benefits charge. This bill will put other communities in New Hampshire on the same playing field as those municipal utilities.

- Senator Perkins Kwoka asked what the amount of money this exemption will save for municipalities and where the money will come from to pay the compliance charge. Representative Vose stated that by exempting the kilowatt hours, they have been removed from the utilities obligation therefore there will be no need to find more money for the compliance charge. The total cost of the bill will be around 5 million dollars statewide. Although it is not a huge amount of money, for smaller towns like Croydon or Epping, a small amount can make a big difference.

Josh Elliot, Department of Energy

- The DOE takes no position on the bill but had a few suggestions and technical fixes.
- On lines 3-7 of the bill, “the PUC shall, after public notice and hearing by order or rule, approve a standard format and methodology that providers of electricity, as defined in RSA 362-F:2, XIV, shall use in exempting the state and its political subdivisions from paying the portion of electricity rates that covers the cost of compliance with the renewable portfolio standard (RPS) under RSA 362-F”. It would make more sense for the Department of Energy to handle this process given that the renewable energy fund and renewable portfolio standards have been assigned to the Department of Energy.
- One issue has to do with competitive suppliers. Competitive suppliers have their rates and do not go through a regular rate making process through the PUC unlike regular electric distribution companies such as Unitil, Eversource, or Liberty. If a municipality decides to use a competitive supplier, it is difficult to determine whether they are complying with this statute if it becomes law. There may be a few ways around this issue such as if we compare the rates of two communities that use the same competitive supplier.
- There is no prohibition in either statute or rules that prevents entities that do not participate in the RPS from being eligible for competitive grants from the renewable energy fund. However, it has been the past practice of the department that towns that do not pay the RPS are not eligible for renewable energy fund.
- It would be helpful for the department, if it is the intention of the communities to opt-out of the RPS, if there is clarifying language that would instruct the department as to whether or not those communities would be eligible for the

competitive grants. Any guardrails that can be put in the bill to prevent people from gaming the system would be appreciated.

- Senator Watters asked what effect having 5 million dollars less in funding for the program will have on the program. Mr. Elliot stated that it depends. The renewable energy fund is funded through the alternative compliance payments through the RPS. An electric distribution utility or a competitive supplier can purchase what is called a renewable energy certificate. Essentially, they purchase the renewable attributes of electric generation. To comply with the renewable portfolio standards, electric distribution utilities and competitive suppliers can do one of two things. They can purchase the renewable energy certificates or they can make an alternative compliance payment (ACP). The renewable energy fund is funded through the ACP's. To the extent that an electric distribution utility or competitive supplier just funds solely through ACP's and they happen to be the provider for a municipality or other political subdivision, then you could see a reduction in funds going into the renewable energy fund. It would depend on the mix of an individual community's electric supplier.
- Senator Watters asked if the Governor's still believes that RSA 362-F is a public good that should be supported by all public entities. Mr. Elliot stated that he does not believe that there has been any change in the Governor's position.
- Senator Avard asked if this bill impedes on investments made for renewable energy in New Hampshire. Mr. Elliot stated that that is up to the legislature to decide.
- Senator Perkins Kwoka asked if all applications to the renewable energy fund have been satisfied. Mr. Elliot stated that the renewable energy fund grant line is a line in the state budget. There is an appropriation that functions as a cap. There is 2 million dollars in each fiscal year for the current budget for the grant programs. There is additional funds in the renewable energy fund which would require the department to go through the fiscal committee process to accept and expend those funds.
- Senator Perkins Kwoka asked if it would be helpful to have the additional funds in the renewable energy fund because there are applications that have not yet been addressed. Mr. Elliot stated that there is currently a wait list for the solar rebate program which provides a 1-thousand-dollar rebate for all solar installations that meet the qualifications as well as a CNI program for solar. Both of the programs are closed as well as wood pellet program has also closed. There is money left in the renewable energy fund and the legislature would have to decide via the joint fiscal committee to move the funds back and reopen those programs.

Michelle Veasey, NHBSR

- Mrs. Veasey represents the NH Businesses for Social Responsibility and they strongly oppose SB 614-FN. NHBSR, its members, as well as the over 150 businesses that have signed on to the clean energy principles find it very important the innovation and competitiveness of the business environment in the state to the policies that support clean energy.
- They feel that if we are not all submitting funding and supporting the common good of the state in order to move towards a renewable energy future, then it will have a negative impact on the RPS and the renewable energy fund. Having the renewable energy opportunities are critical for businesses to move forward both from an operational standpoint and also to attract workforce to the state.
- Mrs. Veasey encouraged the committee to think about the business environment. The bill does send the message out to businesses that they cannot rely on New Hampshire to be a leader in renewable energy.
- Senator Watters asked if a lot of the job growth we are seeing in other states is due to renewable energy. Mrs. Veasey stated that they are hearing from companies that are in New Hampshire and bordering states as well that it is impacting job growth. One of the primary things they are doing is looking at opportunities for renewables because that is a driver especially for younger professionals, so they are continuing to expand in other states such as Massachusetts and Vermont. It is impacting what we are able to do in New Hampshire. Even though these companies have their corporate headquarters in New Hampshire, they are looking to expand in other states. It is a real issue, and it may have a long-term impact on the New Hampshire economy.
- Senator Watters asked if New Hampshire is the median for the cost of electric rates in New England. Mrs. Veasey said that is true.

Huck Montgomery, Liberty

- Liberty has concerns with the bill. It would be costly and difficult for utilities to comply with.
- Liberty does not have the capacity to determine whether any given customer is a member of a political subdivision. Their database systems are not capable of having a field for that. Liberty is in the middle of doing an enterprise-wide software upgrade which is being rolled out in NH this year. At this time, adding capabilities to that software system is not possible without enormous expense because this is software that covers Liberty's entire enterprise across North America.
- To be able to comply with HB 614-FN, it would require Liberty to hire full-time staff whose entire job would revolve around complying with HB 614-FN if it were to pass.
- Mr. Montgomery stated that it is not clear to them which customers are political subdivisions. Liberty is the electric provider for a public park in Salem. All the meters, whether they are maintenance sheds or streetlights are paid for by the

town of Salem except for one which is an equipment shed paid for by the local youth baseball team. Under HB 614-FN, Liberty would have to ascertain which electric meter was the town of Salem's, calculate their usage, estimate their usage into the future, and make their REC procurements for the future based on that number which would be an estimate that would change every year. Liberty would have to do this in aggregate for every community that they serve. They would have to undertake a customer by customer and meter by meter investigation. Liberty's customer care team advised that this would require a full-time staffer who does this work year-round. In addition, to begin compliance would require them to hire a full-time staff member for 6 months to a year to help conduct that study in order to understand who is actually eligible under this bill and who is not. Ultimately, the complexity of administering this bill goes beyond just that component. It impacts Liberty's regulatory work and the complexity of what they do from the regulatory standpoint.

- Currently, Liberty has three general services rate categories and 46 categories for street lighting. This is their rate classification system. HB 614-FN would require the creation of a parallel rate class for each of the 49 rate classifications. They would be doubling the complexity of their rate classification system which would complicate essentially everything Liberty does from a regulatory level in terms of setting rates across rate classifications. Ultimately, the resources that would be dedicated to compliance with HB 614-FN would likely be recovered from their customers that pay for all the services that utilities provide.
- They are not necessarily able to estimate what the total costs and savings would be if there are any in the bill, but it's possible it could cost the equivalent of 1-2 full-time employees just to be able to estimate what the savings are. What they do know is that compliance with the bill will be quite costly.
- Senator Gray asked if Liberty could use customer addresses avoid doing a meter-by-meter investigation since customer addresses and billing would let them know the necessary information. Mr. Montgomery clarified that whether or not a customer is part of a political subdivision is not part of the billing information. It is not data that they track, and it is not data that their software is capable of tracking. They would ultimately have to investigate every meter to do this. Senator Gray and Mr. Montgomery agreed to meet to discuss that issue.
- Senator Avard asked if the House Committees were made aware of Liberty's concerns. Mr. Montgomery stated that his testimony was given to the House Ways and Means Committee. The bill has evolved over time and Liberty has consistently made its concerns known.
- Senator Watters asked if all the expenses Liberty would incur due to the bill are recoverable. Mr. Montgomery stated that the costs are recoverable. The cost associated with administering this will be in perpetuity because there is constant churn with electric customers and meters. Those change, someone will have to mainly update the list of customers over time in order to comply.

- Senator Avard asked what the cost would be to do this. Mr. Montgomery stated that they would need to hire at least one permanent full-time position who's job it would be to execute compliance with the legislation over time and one other position for approximately a year to achieve compliance and conduct the investigation to sync everything up. He does not have a dollar amount estimate but it would cost the same as hiring another full-time staffer with benefits.
- Senator Avard asked if the other utilities would have to do the same. Mr. Montgomery stated that after speaking with the other utilities, none of them have told him they have a different, streamlined, or less expensive way of complying with this.
- Senator Avard asked if Mr. Montgomery had any amendment suggestions. He did not have any suggestions.

Kelly Buchanan, CENH

- CENH is strongly opposed to HB 614-FN.
- It would undermine our renewable portfolio standard, create new utility billing costs, and potentially reduce funding in the renewable energy fund and depress the market for renewable energy certificates. The RPS is NH's only existing policy that statutorily promotes renewable energy, making it a crucial policy for growing our clean tech economy, creating new high-paying jobs, increasing energy independence, and protecting the environment. This policy is a market-based mechanism that encourages development of renewable energy projects at the lowest possible cost. What we have gained is that it has an average private investment-grant ratio of 6-1.
- It is also evident that municipalities across the state already have renewables and are interested in procuring more benefits. To implement HB 614-FN at this time would cause an interruption to those benefits and options to municipalities interested in moving forward with clean energy goals or in an attempt to reduce the cost of their energy bills through renewables which would likely result in a possible cost savings for taxpayers in the town if their municipalities were paying less on their energy bill because they have chosen to take advantage of a distributed local energy source instead.
- They are also concerned with the free-rider question that was brought up. It would be bad practice and rather inappropriate to allow municipalities or other entities to opt-out of paying the cost of compliance and then go seek funding from a source they did not contribute to.
- They are also concerned that this is a slippery slope if we start to allow certain entities to remove themselves from compliance with state policies. This sets a bad precedent in NH that creates an unstable marketplace especially for

business practices and clean energy investments and clean energy workforce in NH.

- HB 614-FN would shrink the RPS at a time when we should be setting our clean energy ambition higher given the high cost of energy and the current state of world affairs. We should work with Municipalities to help them install this locally owned renewable energy which can really result in monthly savings on energy bills if a municipality so chooses.
- The demand for the renewable energy fund grants and rebates is extremely high. CENH consistently hears from its members that the funds are closed rather early in the year or they are on the waitlist for an extended period of time. They do not want to see HB 614-FN exasperate that situation.
- Senator Watters asked if studies show that over the lifetime of a generating plant that levelized cost of energy for wind and solar surpasses that of all other forms of energy such as nuclear, gas, coal, etc. Ms. Buchanan stated that is a fair assumption and that we should leave opportunities open for municipalities to make those choices for what best fits their community.
- Senator Watters asked if it is true that the point of 362-F is that there is concern about what subsidized fossil fuels in the marketplace have done to the environment and climate. Ms. Buchanan stated that the RPS in New Hampshire is rather modest compared to other states and to remove or reduce it in any form would be disappointing and concerning for the environment.
- Senator Perkins Kwoka asked if a policy change like this would create uncertainty in this industry and continuing to make changes would work against our economic goals. Ms. Buchanan stated that this would be a bump in the road and an unexpected change in NH's policy landscape. This would create a lot of uncertainty in those realms and there would be a substantive cost of compliance. The logistics behind this would be challenging. This change would be very disruptive. We have a new non-profit, Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire that is just getting off the ground. This legislation could have unintended consequences for competitive suppliers or be confusing in the regulatory environment.

Heidi Kroll, Granite State Hydropower Association and Monadnock Paper Mills

- Mrs. Kroll spoke in opposition to HB 614-FN. They agree that the bill would undermine the RPS and the renewable energy fund. The bill as written would have the same effect as reducing the percentage requirements for each class in the RPS and therefore reducing demand for renewable energy certificates and reducing their costs. There would be an indirect impact on the renewable energy fund because of the depressed demand and obligation amongst the utilities and suppliers. There would be lower alternative compliance payments going into the renewable energy fund.

- RSA 362-F:1 outlines the purpose of the RPS program, and it talks about encouraging fuel diversity. Through the use of local renewable fuels, we could displace some the reliance on fossil fuels which has the potential of lowering energy costs. Over the last few months, we have seen spikes in fuel prices and utility bills. The current energy crises highlights this issue.
- Another reason they are opposed is because of the possibility of free-riders and the ability to participate in the benefits.
- The slippery slope is real too. This bill opens the door for other entities to ask to be exempt in the future which would erode and undermine the program further.
- Senator Perkins Kwoka asked if the main point is that creating the regulatory uncertain and new compliance costs for utilities we are subjecting ratepayers to increased costs at a time where the global market is creating volatility that could be avoided by greater reliance on renewables. Mrs. Kroll agreed and stated that there is a need to diversify.
- Senator Perkins Kwoka asked if the advantage of having competitive suppliers is that once the plant is built the rate is set for the project and there is essentially minimal maintenance over the life of the project. Mrs. Kroll agreed and stated that the more supply you have gives more choice for consumers and it adds more competition. Once something is built it is just the fuel cost and maintenance without the volatility of fossil fuels.
- Senator Watters asked if the reason why Senator Bradley's revised and set the rates was to stabilize the REC prices so there would be an assurance for hydropower producers. Mrs. Kroll stated that the stability is important and the alternative compliance payment is set forth in law, but the market prices for REC's are always going to be lower than the ACP's. There will overall be a market ripple because of this legislation.

DF

Date Hearing Report completed: March 28, 2022

Speakers

Senate Remote Testify

Energy and Natural Resources Committee Testify List for Bill HB614 on 2022-01

Support: 1 Oppose: 63

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>
Owens, Rebecca	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Doscher, Paul	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Farnham, Amy	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Hathaway, Nate	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Byrd, Richard	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
guidera, sean	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Pfau, Tom	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Callaway, Barbara and Alan	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Quirk, Kimberley	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
RACUSIN, SHARON	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Oxenham, Evan	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Deupree, Jean	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Jernstedt, Margaret	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Jernstedt, G. Christian	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Webb, David	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Gordon, Carolyn	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Benson, Priscilla	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Harrington, Robert	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Aman, Kathryn	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Sweet, Lisa	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Hayes, Joanne	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Manning, Talia	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Williamson, Perry	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
E. Barnato, Amber	A Member of the Public	Myself, Amber Barnato	Oppose
Dunbar, Jessica	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
RAIMONDO, ANTHONY	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Hoover, Coeli	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Pauer, Eric	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support
Smith, Wayne	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Shepardson, Marjorie	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Beffa-Negrini, Patricia	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Levesque, Taylor	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Bushueff, Catherine	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
LaMontagne, Jessica	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Contos, Karen	A Member of the Public	Myself and children of New Hampshire	Oppose
Rhoades, Chuck	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Spence, Richard	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Spence, Susan	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Carey, Constance	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
insolia, janet	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Sullivan, Maureen	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Rickards, Jennifer	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Baber, Bill	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Grossman, Kenneth	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Henninger, Heidi	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Saum, Judith	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Lazinsky, Craig	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose

Tuthill, John	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Scalise, Adam	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Arend, Lee	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Glass, Jonathan	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Crandell-Glass, Jane	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Martin, Patricia	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Merlone, Lynn	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Thomas, Anne	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Bogen, Doug	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
See, Alvin	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
thompson, julia	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Kalet, Howard	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
QUISUMBING-KING, Cora	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Richman, Susan	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Verschueren, James	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Leavitt, Deborah	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose
Corkery, Catherine	A Lobbyist	NH Sierra Club	Oppose

Testimony

Daley Frenette

From: Marta Ceroni <mceronidmi@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 10:05 AM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: [CAUTION: SUSPECT SENDER] Why HB614 is NOT a good idea

Esteemed Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee,

I firmly oppose HB614 for the following reasons:

1. HB614 is impractical and costly to implement. To implement this bill, the utilities would have to create a new set of rates applicable only to municipal meters, create a new back-end billing apparatus to keep track of which meters are on these new rates, and somehow distinguish which meters qualify for these rates and which don't. This would likely be done by verifying one by one which buildings are in fact municipally owned. This would likely require the utilities to hire additional staff and pass on those costs to all ratepayers.

2. We need to strengthen the RPS at this time. The Renewable Portfolio Standard is the only policy promoting renewable energy in NH and is a market-based mechanism that encourages renewable energy for the lowest possible cost. **Now is the time to ramp up renewable energy and diversify our energy sources to respond to an increasingly volatile global market of oil and gas.** In addition green energy jobs now represent a sizable sector of our workforce.

3. Wrong tool for a valid goal. If the goal of the bill is to save municipalities money, the State should be working with municipalities to help them install their own locally-owned renewable generation, which results in real savings on municipal energy bills. There are practical and often cost-neutral ways to do so. New Hampshire towns have learned a lot in recent years on how to make that happen! Please ask them, listen to them!

Respectfully,

Marta Ceroni
Enfield Resident

Daley Frenette

From: Amy Farnham <amylamphere@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 10:29 AM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: opposition to HB614

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm a citizen of NH and I strongly oppose HB614 for it will keep NH among the lowest in the country for renewable energy, result in lost jobs, and increase our electric rates, putting us among the highest in the US for electric rates. At a time when the world is seeing how badly energy independence is needed, we are keeping residents of NH - who would prefer to live free or die - from being able to make their own decisions about their own energy source.

The utilities benefit from a monopolized system and MUST have some accountability for their (in)actions. Keeping the RPS keeps the utilities in check.

Respectfully,
Amy Farnham
Exeter

Daley Frenette

From: Jerry Beck <bentrimone@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 12:28 PM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: HB614

Climate change is real and affecting us today. It demands our attention. Addressing it will be costly. Doing nothing will be much, much more costly. We should be increasing efforts to combat it, not reducing them. Renewables are coming and with them comes great opportunity. New Hampshire is already doing far too little in this arena. HB614 is another step in the wrong direction.

I urge you to defeat HB614 for my grandkids' sake.

Respectfully,
Gerald Beck
Holderness, NH

Daley Frenette

From: Phillip Stephenson <phillip.stephenson@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 2:00 PM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: HB614

Dear Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee,

I am a New Hampshire resident and energy professional, and I am writing in opposition to HB614. New Hampshire's RPS is already the weakest in the entire northeast and this bill is an attempt to begin gradually eating away at its effectiveness. A large number of the municipalities that would be able to opt out of the RPS charges currently benefit from the RECs that local projects generate because of the RPS. In my own town of Hollis, taxpayers benefit from credits generated by wood pellet/biomass generation by the town. If my town were to opt out, we would receive the benefits of the RPS policy without supporting it with the RPS charges (as would many others).

It's worth noting that the RPS helped stimulate this project in Hollis which resulted in our town generating energy/heat from local sources rather than piped in fossil fuels. It also serves to make our town more resilient to supply shocks. We should all be especially sensitive to this issue right now. With natural gas prices rocketing, renewable energy sources can serve as a hedge that keeps prices low/steady and keeps the sources local. New Hampshire could safely get a far higher percentage of our energy from these sources today with no disruption. This bill would carry us in the opposite direction. It would increase our dependence on global fossil fuel markets (primarily natural gas) instead of helping us to generate our power locally and in a resilient manner.

Please do not engage in this attempt to gut the RPS by a "thousand cuts", one funding stream at a time. We need to be moving prudently to strengthen and expand the RPS instead.

Best,
Phillip Stephenson
262 Hayden Rd
Hollis, NH 03049

Daley Frenette

From: Barbara Callaway <bcallaway65@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 3:08 PM
To: Kevin Avar; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: Reject HB614

Dear Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

Please reject HB614. HB 614 would shrink the RPS at just the time when we should be increasing our clean energy ambition; at a time when clean energy jobs now represent a sizable sector of our workforce. Instead of attempting to shrink the RPS, we should be working with municipalities to help them install their own locally-owned renewable generation, which results in real savings on municipal energy bills. What is more this bill may increase utility rates due to the utilities' rising costs to implement this bill.

We urge you to vote NO on HB614.

Thanks for considering our opinion.

Barbara and Alan Callaway
Hanover

Daley Frenette

From: Jeff McGlashan <jeffm@revisionenergy.com>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 6:45 PM
To: Daley Frenette; Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters
Subject: Please vote against HB614 - it will create extra bureaucracy at utilities and raise energy rates

Hi There,

As a New Hampshire resident, Eversource ratepayer, and someone who is able to make a living working in New Hampshire for an energy company, I respectfully request that you do not vote for HB614.

Removing the Renewable Portfolio Standard will not be in the best interest of New Hampshire. It will dismantle a functioning market based mechanism that rewards adoption of renewable energy, and create a new unnecessary administrative burden on utilities that will result in an increase for NH ratepayers, as the utilities will pass the cost on for the extra hours involved in administering a meter by meter assessment of municipal meters to correctly re-structure rates. This will also inhibit more municipalities from benefiting from the cost savings involved in adding renewable technology to their systems in places where it will be cost saving and decrease dependency of foreign sources of fuel.

This seem like the wrong change to be making, and does not benefit our citizens. Please vote in opposition to HB614.

Sincerely,
Jeff McGlashan

Hopkinton, NH

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Daley Frenette

From: Alex <aabernhard@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 8:16 PM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: Oppose HB614

Clearly our climate is warming. RPS is our State's only real response to this fact today. HB614 would substantially weaken our response.

We owe it to our grandchildren to support RPS and other similar efforts; not weaken them. Please vote against HB614

Alex Bernhard
aabernhard@comcast.net
603.998.2788(c)
603.735.5071 (land line)
PO Box 198
East Andover NH 03231

Daley Frenette

From: Sharon Racusin <sdracusin@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 9:50 PM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: I OPPOSE HB614

To the Energy and Natural Resources Committee;

The RPS is the only policy promoting renewable energy in NH and is a market-based mechanism that encourages renewable energy for the lowest possible cost. HB614 would undermine the RPS, create new utility billing costs, and reduce funding in the Renewable Energy Fund. It makes no sense to shrink the RPS at just the time when we should be increasing our clean energy ambition; at a time when clean energy JOBS now represent a sizable sector of our workforce. Instead of attempting to shrink the RPS, we should be working with municipalities to help them install their own locally-owned renewable generation, which results in real savings on municipal energy bills. I strongly OPPOSE this bill.

Sharon Racusin
Hanover, NH

Daley Frenette

From: Robert Schultz <outlook_3E39096F86FAAEA3@outlook.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2022 6:51 AM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: Opposition to HB 614

My background: 30 years of university-level teaching of courses in Environmental Ethics. I appreciate this opportunity to state my strong opposition to HB 614 , which attempts to roll back renewables and towns' clean energy goals. For the sake of the planet (i.e. global warming) and to support jobs in the renewable energy field, I urge your opposition to HB 614.

Sincerely,
Bob Schultz
Lebanon, NH

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Daley Frenette

From: George E. Rupp <ger7@columbia.edu>
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2022 7:45 AM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: HB 614

To the Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

As you know, the RPS is the only policy promoting renewable energy in NH. It is a market-based mechanism that encourages renewable energy for the lowest achievable cost. HB614 would undermine the RPS, create new utility billing costs, and reduce funding in the Renewable Energy Fund. I hope you will agree that it makes no sense to shrink the RPS at just the time when we should be increasing our clean energy ambition. It is a time when clean energy jobs now represent a sizable sector of our workforce. Instead of attempting to shrink the RPS, we should be working with municipalities to help them install their own locally-owned renewable generation, which results in real savings on municipal energy bills. Please oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

George Rupp

Daley Frenette

From: Mary Cad <marycad02@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2022 9:20 AM
To: Kevin Avar; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: HB614

It's hard to understand why anyone would want to stop something that will help keep our forests green and our waters less polluted. Why do you support this bill!

I strongly oppose it as I see that we have only a few years to change the trajectory of what's happening to our climate. As Republicans who like to conserve, what's going on with destroying our environment. Think about the natural world and your love of it, rather than politics. Mary Ann Cadwallader

Daley Frenette

From: David Henderson <dhchillies@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2022 10:01 AM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: Oppose HB 614

Dear Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

Please oppose HB614. This bill really makes no sense. The RPS is only major program in NH to promote renewable energy. This is crucial for our efforts to mitigate climate change, and climate change is slowly destroying our winter tourism industry. Ski seasons are becoming shorter. Ice is thinner on our lakes.

The RPS is the kind of program I would expect you to support. It is market based and delivers improvements at the lowest cost. It also creates jobs in a growing sector of our workforce.

On the other hand, RP614 will require utilities to make major new investments in billing and metering. These costs do nothing to improve our efforts for sustainable development.

I strongly OPPOSE this bill. I ask you to oppose it, too.

Sincerely,

David Henderson

32 Penn Rd

Hanover

Daley Frenette

From: Katherine Thorndike <khthorndike@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2022 10:06 AM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: HB 614-OPPOSE

- I urge you to vote against HB614 which is impractical and costly to implement. To implement this bill, the utilities would have to create a new set of rates applicable only to municipal meters, create a new back-end billing apparatus to keep track of which meters are on these new rates, and somehow distinguish which meters qualify for these rates and which don't.
- The RPS is the only policy promoting renewable energy in NH and is a market-based mechanism that encourages renewable energy for the lowest possible cost.
- HB 614 would shrink the RPS at just the time when we should be increasing our clean energy ambition; at a time when clean energy jobs now represent a sizable sector of our workforce. Instead of attempting to shrink the RPS, we should be working with municipalities to help them install their own locally-owned renewable generation, which results in real savings on municipal energy bills.

Daley Frenette

From: bob & joanne scobie <bobjoannescobie1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2022 10:51 AM
To: Kevin Avar; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: HB 614

I oppose HB 614 and hope that you will vote against it. It contradicts and raises the price tag for New Hampshire voters when we desperately need a market based way to obtain renewable energy. Please, please vote in opposition to this bill. Joanne Scobie

Daley Frenette

From: Sarah Thorne <scthorne350@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2022 7:59 PM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: opposed to HB614

Dear Senate ENR Members,

I am writing to urge you to oppose HB 614 which would undermine the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard. Until we have stronger public policies to dramatically advance renewable energy, we need the RPS in full force.

Thank you,

Sarah Thorne
Gilmanton, NH

Daley Frenette

From: Katie "Thegirlonfire" A <kathryn.aman@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2022 8:30 PM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: OPPOSITION TO HB614!

Dear Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

The RPS is the only policy promoting renewable energy in NH and is a market-based mechanism that encourages renewable energy for the lowest possible cost. Even Republicans should be able to get behind market-based mechanics

HB614 would undermine the RPS, create new utility billing costs, and reduce funding in the Renewable Energy Fund. It makes no sense to shrink the RPS at just the time when we should be increasing our clean energy ambition. At this moment in time, when clean energy JOBS now represent a sizable sector of our workforce, to vote for HB614 makes little logical sense. Instead of attempting to shrink the RPS, we should be working with municipalities to help them install their own locally-owned renewable generation, which results in real savings on municipal energy bills.

I strongly OPPOSE this bill. As a young person in NH, I would hope that my representatives at least read this email and consider the issue from the perspective of a young person who wants to live on a habitable planet.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Aman

Daley Frenette

From: Charles D. Brackett <Charles.D.Brackett@hitchcock.org>
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2022 11:05 AM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: oppose HB614

To the Energy and Natural Resources Committee;

The RPS is the only policy promoting renewable energy in NH and is a market-based mechanism that encourages renewable energy for the lowest possible cost. HB614 would undermine the RPS, create new utility billing costs, and reduce funding in the Renewable Energy Fund. It makes no sense to shrink the RPS at just the time when we should be increasing our clean energy ambition; at a time when clean energy JOBS now represent a sizable sector of our workforce. Instead of attempting to shrink the RPS, we should be working with municipalities to help them install their own locally-owned renewable generation, which results in real savings on municipal energy bills. I strongly OPPOSE this bill.

thanks, Charlie

Charles Brackett, MD, MPH, FACP, FASAM
General Internal Medicine and Population Health
Associate Professor of Medicine and Health Policy and Clinical Practice (TDI)



Dartmouth
GEISEL SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THIS ELECTRONIC MESSAGE:

This message is intended for the use of the person to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and protected from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, your use of this message for any purpose is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please delete the message and notify the sender so that we may correct our records.

Daley Frenette

From: Cappy Nunlist <cappy.nunlist@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2022 11:44 AM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Cc: Mark M. Nunlist; Joanne Hayes
Subject: HB614

We are opposed to HB 614. We are fiscal conservatives and we cannot financially afford to pass this bill. The cost of moving to clean energy is far less than it will cost to ignore the issue and hope it will go away. It will not. Even under the best of circumstances, the amount of taxes we will need to expend to mitigate the effects of climate change will be significant. Passing this bill will increase that amount. Please listen to those who have studied climate change for decades and follow their advice. You were not elected to become experts - you were elected to make sound decisions based on the facts presented by those who are.

Cappy and Mark Nunlist
20 Dorset Lane
Lebanon, NH 03766
603-448-2594

Daley Frenette

From: Gail McPeek <gailamcpeek@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2022 2:34 PM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: Concerning HB614

Dear Energy and Natural Resources committee members,

I strongly oppose HB614 and encourage you to do the same. The RPS (Renewable Portfolio Standard) is the only policy promoting renewable energy in NH and is a market-based mechanism that encourages renewable energy for the lowest possible cost. HB614 would undermine the RPS, create new utility billing costs, and reduce funding in the Renewable Energy Fund. It makes no sense to shrink the RPS, but rather we should be increasing our clean energy ambition and programs. At a time when clean energy JOBS now represent a sizable sector of our workforce. Instead of attempting to shrink the RPS, we should be working with municipalities to help them install their own locally-owned renewable generation, which results in real savings on municipal energy bills.

Once again, I strongly OPPOSE this bill.

Thank you for letting me share my opinion.

Sincerely,
Gail McPeek
Enfield NH
Proud owner of 24 solar panels

Daley Frenette

From: Dennis Robison <robisode@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2022 2:55 PM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: HB 641 - In opposition

I wish to oppose HB 641 exempting the state and political subdivisions from payment of the costs of compliance with the renewable portfolio standard for the following reasons: (1) it is costly and impractical to implement; (2) The RPS is the only policy promoting renewable energy in NH and is a market-based mechanism that encourages renewable energy for the lowest possible cost; (3) it would shrink the RPS at just the time when we should be increasing our clean energy ambition; at a time when clean energy jobs now represent a sizable sector of our workforce.

I am a resident of Hanover NH and a member of the Sustainable Hanover Committee.

--

Dennis E. Robison
robisode@gmail.com

Daley Frenette

From: katie little <katielittlewca@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2022 6:10 PM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob.Guida@leg.state.nh.us; James Gray;
Rebecca.Perkins.Kwpka@leg.state.nh.us; David Watters
Cc: Daley Frenette
Subject: I oppose HB 614

To the Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

I am a resident of Lyme with a background in water quality management.

I strongly OPPOSE HB614 because the RPS is the only policy promoting renewable energy in NH and is a market-based mechanism that encourages renewable energy for the lowest possible cost. HB614 would undermine the RPS, create new utility billing costs, and reduce funding in the Renewable Energy Fund.

To me it makes no sense to shrink the RPS at just the time when we should be supplementing our clean energy goals and shortening their schedule; indeed, at a time when clean energy JOBS now represent a sizable sector of our workforce. Instead of attempting to shrink the RPS, we should be working with municipalities to help them install their own locally-owned renewable generation, which results in real savings on municipal energy bills.

Again, I strongly OPPOSE HB614.

Thank you for your consideration, Katherine Little

Daley Frenette

From: Anthony Raimondo <tonyraimondo@LIVE.COM>
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2022 6:37 PM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: HB 614

Dear Committee Members

I wish to express my opposition to SB 614 for the following reasons.

Because rates would need to differentiate between municipal and non-municipal owned property, implementation of this bill would require the utilities to create a new set of rates applicable only to municipal meters.

Possibly, it may be necessary to create a new back-end billing apparatus to keep track of which meters are on these new rates, and somehow distinguish which meters qualify for these rates and which don't.

This may need to be done by verifying one by one which buildings are in fact municipally owned. If so, this would likely require the utilities to hire additional staff and pass on those costs to all ratepayers.

Possibly forcing new costs on consumers is not the aim at which any bill in New Hampshire should be the basis for passage,

Please reject this bill.

Thank you
Anthony Raimondo

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Daley Frenette

From: Marge Shepardson <marge.shepardson@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2022 7:39 PM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: HB 614

To the Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

I am opposed to HB 614. This bill would gut the Renewable Portfolio Standard. We already have the lowest goal in New England for renewable energy and this would make it worse by not enforcing it across all sectors.

It would also decrease the amount of money the state has to spend on energy efficiency projects, another area NH is weaker in than other states in the area. Furthermore, it would cost a lot to implement this bill.

Please vote ITL.

Marge Shepardson
Marlborough Energy Committee

Sent from Mail for Windows

Daley Frenette

From: Nancy Miles <niles3342@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2022 8:29 PM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: Opposition to HB614

To: The Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

This is the time that every effort should be made to promote rather than discourage renewable energy programs. So HB614's repeal of the Renewable Portfolio Standard would undermine the RPS and create new utility billing costs as well as reduce funding in the Renewable Energy Fund.

The RPS is the only policy promoting renewable energy in NH and is a market-based mechanism that encourages renewable energy for the lowest possible cost. It makes no sense to shrink the RPS at just the time when we should be increasing our clean energy efforts. Clean energy JOBS now represent a sizable sector of our workforce. Instead of attempting to shrink the RPS, we should be working with municipalities to help them install their own locally-owned renewable generation, which results in real savings on municipal energy bills.

We strongly OPPOSE this bill.

Sincerely,
Nancy and Frank Miles

Daley Frenette

From: Susannah Clark <susannah.t.clark@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2022 8:48 PM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: opposition to HB614

To the Energy and Natural Resources Committee;

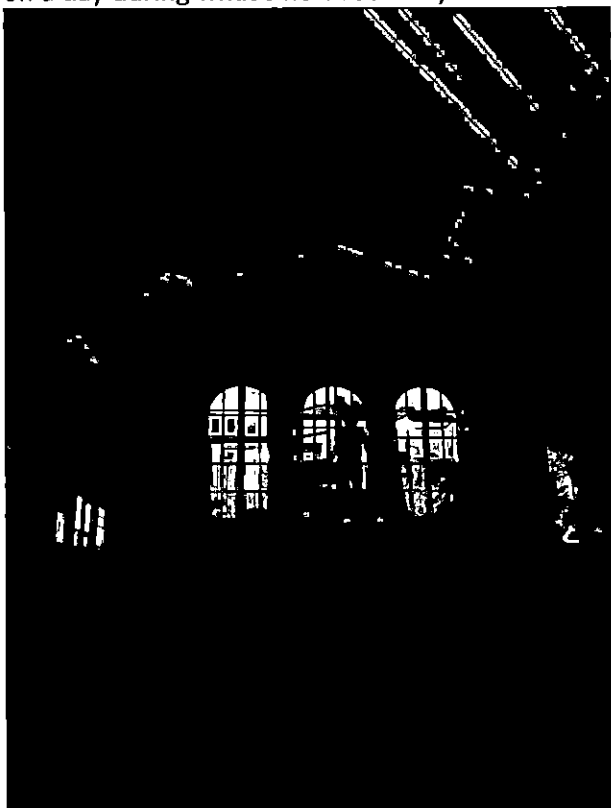
The RPS is the only policy promoting renewable energy in NH and is a market-based mechanism that encourages renewable energy for the lowest possible cost. HB614 would undermine the RPS, create new utility billing costs, and reduce funding in the Renewable Energy Fund. It makes no sense to shrink the RPS at just the time when we should be increasing our clean energy ambition; at a time when clean energy JOBS now represent a sizable sector of our workforce. Instead of attempting to shrink the RPS, we should be working with municipalities to help them install their own locally-owned renewable generation, which results in real savings on municipal energy bills. I strongly OPPOSE this bill.

Susannah Clark

Daley Frenette

From: Sherry Boschert <sherry.boschert@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 10:40 AM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: Oppose HB 614

HB614 is a terrible bill that would gut the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and doom New Hampshire to more costly suffering under the climate crisis. I moved to this wonderful state a year ago because the climate crisis has made my former hometown in California barely livable. Do you want to know what that looks like? Here's a photo from 10:30 a.m. on a day during what's now routinely called "fire smoke season":



Yes, that's mid-morning. It should be sunny. And the day only got darker after that because of the smoke. Every year now, there are cumulatively 2 months when we couldn't go outside because we couldn't breathe due to all the fire smoke.

Imagine New Hampshire's forests in that situation. You can help prevent that by rejecting HB 614. We should be accelerating the switch to clean, renewable power, not making it harder. Please do the right thing and reject HB 614, for all of us and the generations who come after us.

Sherry Boschert
Lebanon, NH

Daley Frenette

From: stewwood@aol.com
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 4:18 PM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David.Watters@state.nh.us; Daley Frenette
Cc: stewwood@aol.com
Subject: HB5141

To the Energy and Natural Resources Committee;

The Renewable Portfolio Standard is the only policy promoting renewable energy in NH and is a market-based mechanism that encourages renewable energy for the lowest possible cost.

HB614 would undermine that policy, create new utility billing costs, and reduce funding in the Renewable Energy Fund. It is important not to shrink the RPS when we should be increasing our clean energy ambition; and when clean energy JOBS now represent a sizable sector of our workforce. Instead of attempting to shrink the RPS, we should be working with municipalities to help them install their own locally owned renewable generation, in order to experience real savings on municipal energy bills. I strongly OPPOSE this bill.

Thank you,

R. Stewart Wood, Jr. 57 Cummings Road, Apt 157, Hanover, NH 03755

Daley Frenette

From: Richard Spence <rtssds2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 4:21 PM
To: Kevin Avard; Bob Giuda; James Gray; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka; David Watters; Daley Frenette
Subject: HB 614

To the Members of the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee:

I am writing this email to strongly oppose the passage of HB614. In essence, it is a thinly disguised substantial evisceration of the Renewable Energy Fund by a thousand cuts. By exempting the state and municipalities from the obligation of paying for the costs of compliance, the legislation effectively defunds the REP and at the same time creates verification issues.

In the end, if passed, the consumer will bear an additional monetary burden in a state with high energy costs.

We should promote clean, renewable energy resources and be forward thinking, concentrating on a sustainable future in which REP will play a significant role.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Richard and Susan Spence

Daley Frenette

From: Michael Vose
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2022 6:02 PM
To: Daley Frenette
Subject: Fw: Amendment for HB614

FYI...

--Rep. Michael Vose, Chair
Science, Technology, & Energy Committee
Rockingham District 9
Epping, NH

From: Michael Vose
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2022 2:04 PM
To: Kevin Avard <Kevin.Avard@leg.state.nh.us>; David Watters <David.Watters@leg.state.nh.us>; Bob Giuda <Bob.Giuda@leg.state.nh.us>; James Gray <James.Gray@leg.state.nh.us>; Rebecca Perkins Kwoka <Rebecca.PerkinsKwoka@leg.state.nh.us>
Subject: Amendment for HB614

Honorable Colleagues,

During Tuesday's public hearing, I sensed some reluctance to move forward with HB614 as passed twice by the House. Sen. Watters seemed to suggest that making the bill opt-in instead of opt-out might make it more workable.

To that end, I propose the following amendment.

AN ACT exempting the state and political subdivisions from payment of the costs of compliance with the renewable portfolio standard. Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 New Paragraph; Electrical Rates and Charges; Exemption For State and Political Subdivisions. Amend RSA 378:49 by inserting after paragraph III the following new paragraph:

IV.(a) The **department of energy** shall, after notice and hearing, by order or rule, approve a standard format and methodology that providers of electricity, as defined in RSA 362-F:2, XIV, shall use in exempting the state and its political subdivisions from paying the portion of electricity rates that covers the cost of compliance with the renewable portfolio standard (RPS) under RSA 362-F. A political subdivision shall initially be in a **non-exempt** status unless the governing body of the political subdivision subsequently chooses to opt in under subparagraph (c).

(b) Providers of electricity shall not be subject to compliance under RSA 362-F:3 for electricity sales that have been exempted pursuant to subparagraph (a).

(c) By October 15 of each year, each provider of electricity doing business with political subdivisions of the State shall notify these entities of their current opt-out/opt-in status. Any political subdivision, by a majority vote of its governing body, may elect to opt-in **to be** exempt from payment of the amounts identified as costs

of compliance with the renewable portfolio standard under RSA 362-F. Otherwise, the subdivision will remain **non**-exempt under subparagraph (a). Reversing this opt-in decision also requires a majority vote of the governing body.

(d) For purposes of this paragraph, "political subdivision" means any electricity account holder that operates as an agency of the state, a county, a municipality, a school district, or a village district.

(e) Notwithstanding common practice, the department of energy shall not consider exemption status under this section for applications for grants from the renewable energy fund [RSA citation needed].

2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022

I added a new section (e) that clarifies that exemption status, which is not required by existing statute or rule, will not influence decisions about renewable energy grants.

I hope you will consider this amendment to allow our state's citizens to have more choice over the services provided by their property taxes.

Thanks,

--Rep. Michael Vose, Chair
Science, Technology, & Energy Committee
Rockingham District 9
Epping, NH



CLEAN ENERGY NH

Your Voice in All Energy Matters

14 Dixon Ave, Suite 202 | Concord, NH 03301 | 603.226.4732

March 22, 2022

Senator Kevin Avar, Chair
Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
State House, Room 103
Concord, NH 03301

Testimony on HB614-FN, exempting the state and political subdivisions from payment of the costs of compliance with the renewable portfolio standard

Dear Chair Avar and members of the Committee,

Clean Energy NH is the Granite State's leading clean energy advocate, dedicated to supporting policies and programs that strengthen our state's economy, protect public health, and conserve natural resources. We are a member-based non-profit representing over 300 individual, business, and municipal members.

CENH strongly opposes HB614-FN because it would undermine our Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), create new utility billing costs, and potentially reduce funding in the Renewable Energy Fund (REF) and artificially depress the market for renewable energy certificates (RECs). CENH provides the following information regarding the RPS as possibly helpful to understanding the broader implications of HB614-FN.

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD (RPS)

The RPS is NH's only existing policy that statutorily promotes renewable energy, making it a crucial policy for growing our clean tech economy, creating new high-paying jobs, increasing energy independence, and protecting the environment. This policy is a market-based mechanism that encourages development of renewable energy projects at the lowest possible cost.

The RPS requires 25.2% of NH's electricity to come from renewable sources by the year 2025 and represents a very small fraction of a ratepayer's monthly bill (\$0.0053/kWh in 2020), yet provides tremendous economic and environmental benefits for NH.

Renewable generation types are split into classes, each with annual generation goals (managed by the Public Utilities Commission):

- Class I: New renewable Energy
 - Class I: Thermal energy (solar thermal, biomass, geothermal)
- Class II: New solar
- Class III: Existing biomass/methane
- Class IV: Existing small hydropower

Utilities and other electricity suppliers are required to procure electricity from the above sources annually by purchasing RECs in an open market. One REC represents the renewable characteristics of one megawatt hour of renewable energy generated by the sources above, including solar, biomass, geothermal, wind, hydro, etc. This “REC market” provides an additional source of income for renewable energy projects, making it an important aspect of project economics for both existing and new projects, and ensures that renewable energy is being purchased in the most cost-effective manner.

The RPS also establishes the state’s REF which provides rebates for renewable energy projects. According to statute, electric suppliers are required to pay Alternative Compliance Payments (ACPs) if they do not purchase enough RECs on the market. The ACP payment effectively establishes a ceiling on REC prices. ACPs directly fund the REF, managed by the Department of Energy, and annually distributes millions of dollars to solar, biomass, wind, and hydro projects that benefit businesses and communities across the state. These funds have leveraged vast sums of private investment with average private investment to grant/rebate ratio of 6:1.

HB614-FN

This bill, as amended by the House, proposes to exempt the State of NH, municipalities, and other political subdivisions of the state (counties, schools, village districts) from payment of the cost of compliance with the RPS. The State of NH, many municipalities, and other political subdivisions themselves own renewable energy installations and actively participate in and benefit from the RPS by obtaining rebates, generating renewable energy, or selling their RECs. As such, this bill has the potential to decrease the benefit taxpayers of those towns will receive from those investments. Many municipalities also have adopted renewable energy goals that are far more ambitious and exceed the state's RPS goals. Exempting the State and municipalities would be a slippery slope and open the door to further requests from other types of electric customers to ask for exemptions that would undermine the policy and associated programs.

Exempting these certain classes of utility customers may also create a free-ridership problem. The language of HB614-FN does not specify whether or not a municipality or political subdivision would be ineligible or eligible to apply for grants via the REF. The cost of RPS compliance contributes to the overall funding level in the REF. Allowing entities, which do not

contribute to the pool of competitively sought grant funding to benefit from grant funding would be inappropriate.

Implementing HB164-FN would also create new utility billing costs that would be passed on to all ratepayers. We hear consistently from the utilities that even minor changes and updates to their billing systems result in significant costs for their ratepayers. Identifying each eligible customer, creating a new bill credit, calculating that credit, and adjusting the offset for RPS compliance will require billing system modifications and staff time. The costs of implementing this policy could be significant, potentially even outweighing the very small bill credit, and would be passed on to all ratepayers, not just the ones receiving the credit.

Finally, HB614-FN would shrink the RPS at just the time when we should be increasing our clean energy ambition; at a time when clean energy jobs now represent a sizable sector of our workforce. Instead of attempting to reduce the RPS, we should be working with municipalities to help them install their own locally-owned renewable generation, which results in real savings on municipal energy bills benefitting all taxpayers. ACPs are the only funding source for the REF. There is already more demand for several of the rebate and grant programs than there is funding available. Further reducing funding to the REF will exacerbate funding shortages that cause start-stops and waitlists in the programs.

For all these reasons, **CENH asks you to find that HB614 is inexpedient to legislate.**

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to provide our input on this bill and please feel free to contact me should you have any questions on our testimony or wish to discuss this bill any further.

Sincerely,



Kelly Buchanan
Director of Legislative & Regulatory Affairs
Clean Energy NH
Kelly@cleanenergynh.org
303-956-1246

GRANITE STATE HYDROPOWER ASSOCIATION, INC.

TWO COMMERCIAL STREET
BOSCAWEN, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03303

TELEPHONE: 603-753-4577
EMAIL: gsha@essexhydro.com
WEBSITE: www.granitestatehydro.org

March 22, 2022

Senator Kevin Avard, Chairman
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
New Hampshire State House
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 614-FN Exempting the State and Political Subdivisions from Payment of the Costs of Compliance with the Renewable Portfolio Standard

Dear Chairman Avard and Honorable Members of the Committee,

The Granite State Hydropower Association (GSHA) appreciates this opportunity to testify on HB 614 relative to exempting the state and political subdivisions from payment of the costs of compliance with the renewable portfolio standard. **GSHA is opposed to this bill and respectfully urges this Committee to find it Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL).**

By way of brief background, GSHA is a voluntary, non-profit trade association for the small-scale hydropower industry in New Hampshire. Members of GSHA own and operate nearly 50 hydroelectric facilities located in 35 towns and cities throughout the state, totaling nearly 55 megawatts (MWs) of distributed generation. GSHA members produce an emissions-free, renewable, reliable and locally distributed source of electricity that provides important economic, recreational, and environmental benefits to New Hampshire. GSHA hydro facilities pay local and state property and business taxes, employ New Hampshire residents, and purchase local goods and services needed for operation and maintenance.

GSHA is opposed to HB 614 because we believe it will undermine the Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) program and the Renewable Energy Fund, both of which provide important support to local renewable resources. The bill proposes to grant the state and its political subdivisions (counties, municipalities, school districts, and village districts) an automatic exemption from paying RPS compliance costs, with the option to opt-in to pay these costs. This proposal would undermine the state's support for renewable generators by reducing the demand for Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), which will in turn lower the market prices of RECs. The proposal is also likely to reduce the amount of money deposited into the Renewable Energy Fund (REF), which is used to spur investments in in-state renewable generation.

As explained in RSA 362-F:1, which outlines the purpose of the RPS, renewable generation can provide fuel diversity to NH through the use of local renewable fuels that displace and thereby lower dependence on fossil fuels. This has the potential to lower and stabilize energy costs by reducing exposure to rising and volatile fossil fuel prices such as those that NH residents and businesses are currently experiencing with the recent spikes in oil, gas, and utility bills. Renewable energy can also help keep NH's energy dollars in-state and provide health and environmental benefits. For these reasons, the NH Legislature found that it is in the public interest to stimulate investment in local renewable energy through the RPS. **The current energy crisis has highlighted the importance of NH's RPS and investing in local renewable energy.**

HB 614 will have the same effect on the RPS program as a policy that reduces the percent of renewable

_____ PRODUCING ELECTRICITY FROM A RENEWABLE RESOURCE. _____

power that electricity providers are required to purchase annually. Under the RPS, each provider multiplies their annual megawatt hour sales to their NH retail customers by the percentage requirements for Class I, Class II, Class III and Class IV to arrive at their renewable obligation. Their RPS obligation can be met by buying RECs and/or making Alternative Compliance Payments. HB 614 will reduce electricity providers' RPS obligation and thus their demand for RECs because the providers' retail sales will be reduced by the amount of power sold to the opted-out state and political subdivisions. The demand for RECS will be lower while the supply will be unchanged (all else equal), **resulting in lower market prices for RECs. The sale of RECs for NH's small scale hydro plants at reasonable and predictable prices is an important source of revenue that helps local hydro owners maintain and invest in their plants so they operate safely and are compliant with all state and federal requirements.**

Furthermore, this shift in REC markets is likely to reduce the amount of Alternative Compliance Payments that electricity suppliers make into the Renewable Energy Fund. This fund serves a key role in the market-based design of the state's RPS program. Specifically, qualifying renewable resources produce power and RECs. Electricity providers can meet the RPS requirements by buying RECs or, if there are not enough RECs available in the marketplace, by making Alternative Compliance Payments. These payments are deposited into the REF, which is used to leverage private investment in renewable generation through grants and rebate programs. This investment boosts the supply of renewable generation and hence the supply of RECs, thereby making REC markets more competitive and robust. **HB 614 will undercut the important role of the REF.**

GSHA is also opposed to HB 614 because it allows the state and opted-out political subdivisions to be free-riders. The state and such political subdivisions would be exempt from paying RPS compliance costs, yet they would be allowed to participate in the benefits, either by selling RECs associated with renewable resources they own, and/or by participating in grants and rebate programs funded by the REF.

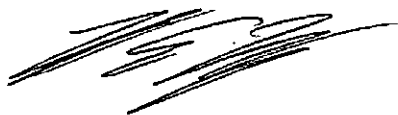
Furthermore, GSHA is opposed to HB 614 because it will impose a large administrative burden on the utilities, which will be costly for ratepayers. NH's utilities have testified that they will have to separate out each meter associated with the state and all political subdivisions that have opted not to pay RPS compliance costs, and create and implement either a new rate or a rebate for these meters.

Finally, GSHA is opposed to HB 614 because it introduces a slippery slope to more exemptions. If the state and other political subdivisions are granted an exemption, other groups will most certainly seek exemptions too. The more exemptions that are granted, the more the RPS program will be undermined.

For the reasons outlined above, **GSHA respectfully urges this Committee to find HB 614 Inexpedient to Legislate.**

GSHA greatly appreciates your time and consideration of this testimony and is happy to answer any questions or provide further information. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Bob King, President, Granite State Hydropower Association

TO: Senate ENR Committee
FROM: Rep. Michael Vose
RE: Testimony for HB614-FN

During the 2020 campaign season, many voters in my district had questions about property taxes. The answer to this perennial question was a reminder to voters that property taxes are driven mostly by municipal and school budgets. Nevertheless, many asked for relief from the state.

HB614-FN provides such relief. It recognizes that individual citizens pay for the state's renewable portfolio standard (RPS) on their personal electricity bills, and then pay for it again on their property taxes, which support municipal and school electricity costs. It also recognizes that the state's five municipal electric utilities do not pay RPS charges (or system benefits charges) to keep their town electricity bills as low as possible. HB614-FN makes that savings available to all cities and towns.

The bill reduces the RPS obligation of electricity suppliers by the number of kilowatt-hours exempted by the legislation. This provision ensures that no costs will be shifted to other customers. The bill requires that all suppliers of electricity, including competitive energy suppliers, must exempt customers of a political subdivision from the costs of RPS compliance – these suppliers are not regulated by the PUC.

Exempting the costs of the RPS can realize substantial savings. For example, in 2020, state government operations used 10,539,840 kilowatt hours of electricity (according to the PUC) and paid an estimated \$508,702 in RPS charges. Those funds could have been used to support education, DHHS, or any of dozens of other state government activities.

Similarly, cities like Manchester and Nashua could realize \$100,00-\$200,000 in savings by not paying for the RPS. Even my small town of Epping could save \$3,000 per year.

The bill also provides that any town, city, or other such body can choose to continue paying for the RPS by a vote of its governing body, giving voters the final say on paying these costs.

During these uncertain economic times, any budgetary relief provided under this kind of legislation will help ensure that the state can fund its most important activities uninterrupted. Every little bit helps.

Respectfully submitted,
--Rep Michael Vose
Rockingham 9
Epping



March 22, 2022

Senator Kevin Avar, Chair
Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
State House, Room 103
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Testimony on HB 614-FN, exempting the state and political subdivisions from payment of the cost of compliance with the Renewable Portfolio Standard

Dear Chair Avar and Members of the Senate Energy & Resources Committee,

New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility and the 150+ business signatories of the Clean Energy Principles (nhbsr.org/energy) advocate for policies and practices at the state level that create opportunities for expansion of clean energy development in our state. For that reason, **we strongly oppose HB614**. The signatories of the Clean Energy Principles believe that investing in the clean energy is good for the economy and for our communities. We feel that it is important to maintain strong support of the Renewable Portfolio Standard and exempting state and local groups from participating will undermine the intent and execution of the RPS and the funding of the Renewable Energy Fund, which is critical to the rebating of qualifying systems.

As we state in the Clean Energy Principles, we believe that ... "Strengthening investments in market-driven clean energy programs will help New Hampshire businesses be more competitive and grow our workforce." Investments in clean energy make the state more resilient and keep our energy dollars local.

We therefore strongly oppose HB614 and ask that the Committee find that it is inexpedient to legislate. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Veasey".

Michelle Veasey, Executive Director, NH Businesses for Social Responsibility

Investments in Clean Energy Help New Hampshire Businesses Thrive

As businesses and employers invested in New Hampshire, we believe that transitioning to a clean energy economy will improve our own competitiveness, and our state's prosperity, health, and security.

- Energy efficiency and clean energy solutions are essential to our businesses. Strengthening investments in market-driven clean energy programs will help New Hampshire businesses be more competitive and grow our workforce.
- Clean energy solutions help us protect the beautiful natural resources of our state, our tourism economy, our health and our way of life.
- Strong state policies to enhance access to energy efficiency and renewable energy will shift our economy away from imported fossil fuels, reduce energy costs and support locally produced clean energy resources—keeping our energy dollars in New Hampshire's economy.
- Investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy make us more resilient by reducing exposure to fossil fuel price volatility.
- Developing clean energy systems and technologies to meet the needs of a changing global economy provides economic opportunities for the businesses and people of our state.

We support policies and legislation that will advance these points and attract innovation and opportunity for our state and our people.

Sincerely,

1785 Inn	Filtrine Manufacturing Company	Mainstay Technologies	Rivermead
2 B Green Profitably	Foxfire Properties	MAYO Designs, Inc.	Saltwater
36Creative	Franklin Savings Bank	Medicus Healthcare Solutions	Sara Mae Brown Consulting LLC
900 Degrees Pizzeria	Froling Energy	MegaFood	Scrapp
ABC Energy Savings	Full Spectrum Wellness, LLC	Merritt & Merritt	Sheldon Pennoyer Architects
Admix	Full-Nelson, LLC	MicroSpec Corporation	Ski New Hampshire
Affinity LED Light	Gale River Motel	Mighty Roots	Standard Power of America
Alnoba	Garland Mill	MilliporeSigma	Stephenson Strategic Communications
Alpine Heat Pumps LLC	GDS Associates, Inc.	Mindful Making and Design	Sterndale Strategic
Amherst Country Club	Global Aquaculture Alliance	Minim	Stonyfield
Ashuelot River Hydro, Inc.	Global Round Table Leadership	Mt. Washington Auto Road	Strategic Potential LLC
Associated Grocers of New England	Good Start Packaging	NEMO Equipment	Sullivan Construction
Atlantic Media Productions	Grappone Automotive Group	New Directions Collaborative	Sun Moon Farm
AutoBeGreen	Gravity Group New England	New England Commercial Solar Services	Sunrise Labs
Autodesk	Great Bay Community College	New England Solar Garden	Sustainable Futures Consulting
Bangor Savings Bank	Great Glen Trails	Newell & Crathern	Sweaty Turtle Entertainment
Beechleaf Design	Green Alliance	Nextmove Technologies LLC	The Duprey Companies
Bellavance Beverage Company	Green Energy Options	Nordic Inn Resort	The Elm Street Group at Morgan Stanley
BerryDunn	Hannaford Supermarkets	Northeast Delta Dental	The Glen House
Bowst Interactive	Hannah Grimes Center	Off Campus Rentals	The Grappone Conference Center
Breathe NH	Hanover Co-op Food Stores	Organizational Ignition	The Hvizda Team
Bruss Project Management	Harvey Construction	Outdoor Industry Association	The McDermott Group at Merrill Lynch
Business Consulting of NH	Helix Design	Outdoor New England & Mill City Park	The Richards Group
Casella Resource Solutions	Henry Whipple House	P & L Landscaping, LLC	Throwback Brewery
Celdara Medical, LLC	Hitchiner Manufacturing	Paragon Digital Marketing	Timberland
ChopShop Mediaworks	Hypertherm	Patrick's Pub & Eatery	TRC
Circular Blu	Image4	Pause, A Mindfulness Practice	Tupelo Music Hall
Clean Generation Inc.	Impax Asset Management/ Pax World Funds	PeopleSense Consulting	UK Architects, PC
Coca-Cola Beverages Northeast	Jack's Pizza	Pete & Gerry's Organics	Velcro, USA
Concord Food Co-op	John Benford Photography	Petersen Engineering	Veris Wealth Partners
Cornerstone Financial Planning	Jupiter Hall, LLC	Placework	Wellscoft Fence Systems, LLC
Craft Brew Alliance	Landry/French Construction	Portsmouth Brewery	White Mountain Strategies
Cultural Chemistry	League of Conservation Voters	Post and Beam Brewing	Wire Belt Company of America
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Health	LighTec, Inc.	Prism Energy Services	Worthen Industries
Eastern Bank	Littleton Food Co-op	PromoCentric LLC	W.S. Badger and Co.
ELA Consulting	Lonza Biologics	Resilient Buildings Group	YES! Ventures, LLC
Estate Preservation and Planning	Lucky & Me	ReVision Energy	
Fenton Family Dealerships		Ridgeview Construction	

Voting Sheets

Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee

EXECUTIVE SESSION RECORD

2021-2022 Session

Bill # 614-FN

Hearing Date: ~~3/22/22~~ 3/22/22

Executive Session Date: 4/19/22

Motion of: IHKM Vote: _____

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Gray	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Watters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>

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: G. (W)

Notes: _____

Committee Report

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 614-FN, exempting the state and political subdivisions from payment of the costs of compliance with the renewable portfolio standard.

Interim Study, Vote 4-0.

Senator James Gray for the committee.

General Court of New Hampshire - Bill Status System

Docket of HB614

Docket Abbreviations

Bill Title: exempting the state and political subdivisions from payment of the costs of compliance with the renewable portfolio standard.

Official Docket of HB614.:

Date	Body	Description
1/14/2021	H	Introduced (in recess of) 01/06/2021 and referred to Science, Technology and Energy HJ 2 P. 56
1/20/2021	H	Public Hearing: 01/29/2021 03:00 pm Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar: https://www.zoom.us/j/92874903669 / Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day (time permitting) from the time the committee is initially convened.
2/16/2021	H	Majority Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment #2021-0156h (Vote 11-9; RC) HC 12 P. 24
2/16/2021	H	Minority Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate
2/24/2021	H	Amendment #2021-0156h : AA VV 02/24/2021 HJ 3 P. 86
2/24/2021	H	Ought to Pass with Amendment : MA RC 198-150 02/24/2021 HJ 3 P. 86
2/24/2021	H	Referred to Ways and Means 02/24/2021 HJ 3 P. 86
3/10/2021	H	Public Hearing: 03/10/2021 10:00 am Members of the public may attend using the following link: To join the webinar: https://www.zoom.us/j/99357402693 / Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day (time permitting) from the time the committee is initially convened.
3/30/2021	H	Retained in Committee
8/18/2021	H	Full Committee Work Session: 09/07/2021 09:30 am LOB 202 / Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day (time permitting) from the time the committee is initially convened.
9/8/2021	H	Subcommittee Work Session: 09/15/2021 11:00 am LOB 202-204
8/18/2021	H	==CANCELLED== Full Committee Work Session: 09/28/2021 09:30 am LOB 202 / Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day (time permitting) from the time the committee is initially convened.
9/21/2021	H	Subcommittee Work Session: 09/28/2021 09:50 am LOB 104
9/21/2021	H	==RESCHEDULED== Full Committee Work Session: 09/28/2021 11:00 am LOB 202-204 / Executive session on pending legislation may be held throughout the day (time permitting) from the time the committee is initially convened.
9/29/2021	H	Subcommittee Work Session: 10/07/2021 09:30 am LOB 202-204
10/13/2021	H	Subcommittee Work Session: 11/04/2021 09:30 am LOB 104
10/13/2021	H	Full Committee Work Session: 11/04/2021 10:00 am LOB 202-204
10/20/2021	H	Subcommittee Work Session: 11/10/2021 12:30 pm LOB 104
10/20/2021	H	Full Committee Work Session: 11/10/2021 01:30 pm LOB 202-204
11/17/2021	H	Majority Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment #2021-2238h 11/10/2021 (Vote 12-7; RC) HC 48 P. 45
11/17/2021	H	Minority Committee Report: Inexpedient to Legislate
1/9/2022	H	Amendment #2021-2238h : AA VV 01/06/2022 HJ 1

1/9/2022	H	Ought to Pass with Amendment 2021-2238h: MA DV 177-158 01/06/2022 HJ 1
1/18/2022	S	Introduced 01/05/2022 and Referred to Energy and Natural Resources; SJ 2
3/16/2022	S	Hearing: 03/22/2022, Room 103, SH, 09:00 am; SC 12
4/19/2022	S	Committee Report: Referred to Interim Study, 04/28/2022; SC 17
4/28/2022	S	Refer to Interim Study, MA, VV; 04/28/2022; SJ 10

NH House

NH Senate

Other Referrals

Senate Inventory Checklist for Archives

Bill Number: HB 614-FN

Senate Committee: Energy

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

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 # _____

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 # _____

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:

Daley
Committee Aide

6/24/22
Date

Senate Clerk's Office AL