September 17, 2015

Chairman Martin Honigberg New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee 21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301

Re: NH Site Evaluation Committee Rulemaking, Docket No. 2014-04

Dear Chairman Honigberg:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments pertaining to New Hampshire's rulemaking for wind energy siting.

During the September 15, 2015 public hearing I mentioned that one of my constituents, a resident of Rumney who is also a direct abutter to the Groton Wind facility, was never notified of the project prior to construction starting. It is my understanding that under current DES rules an abutter would only receive notice of pending work if an application for a wetlands permit is filed. (Env-Wt 501.01(d)(1)) Since a wind project can span multiple parcels, if a landowner's parcel abuts a project parcel that does not include impacted wetlands, no such notice would be issued.

Given the emphasis the legislature placed on public involvement when it debated SB 245, I believe it important that immediate abutters be afforded every opportunity to have their voices heard. I encourage you to require applicants to take extra steps to directly notify all abutters of these projects.

Please consider adding the following language to the draft rules:

Site 201.01 Public Information Sessions Prior to Application.

(b) The applicant shall publish a public notice not less than 14 days before each such session in one or more newspapers having a regular circulation in the county in which the session is to be held. This notice shall describe the nature and location of the proposed facility. The applicant shall mail a copy of this notice to the proposed facility host municipalities and unincorporated places, municipalities and unincorporated places abutting the host municipalities and unincorporated places, and other municipalities and unincorporated places that are the subject of or covered by studies included with or referenced in the application. Like notice shall also be mailed via certified mail to all known abutting landowners.

(c) Not less than 10 days before each such session, the applicant shall provide to the chairperson of the committee a copy of the public notice published pursuant to (b) above. The applicant shall also certify that all known abutting landowners received a copy of the notice.

Thank you for your many hours of work. If you have any questions regarding my request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (603)764-5902 or by email at <u>duane.brown@leg.state.nh.us</u>.

Sincerely,

Duane Brown State Representative, Grafton 16 Wentworth

