



November 6, 2014

David K. Wiesner, Staff Attorney  
N.H. Public Utilities Commission  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Mr. Wiesner,

Please accept this letter in support of the draft rules prepared by “Various Energy Groups” dated September 22, 2014 and submitted to the NH PUC pursuant to the Site Evaluation Committee’s (SEC) request for advance public comment on the rulemaking required by recently enacted legislation (Senate Bill 245 and House Bill 1602) as well as Senate Bill 99 of 2013.

Velcro USA Inc. operates two manufacturing facilities and employs over 750 people within the State of New Hampshire. In order to maintain our position as a brand leader in a very cost competitive global market, it is critical that we minimize the main contributors to our cost of manufacturing. Year after year, the rising cost of energy remains a key contributing factor that influences our business performance. As a large consumer of energy, the need for a reliable supply of electricity and natural gas at costs competitive to other regions within the country is vital for our business.

Realizing that a competitive market for energy in New Hampshire and New England will help influence lower energy costs, the need for policy and rules that encourage a regulatory environment that enables the introduction of new energy sources and infrastructure is essential. Our business has witnessed the introduction of various programs that, although resulting in short-term higher local energy costs, were designed to promote the creation of new sources of energy that would ultimately lower, or at least mitigate, the rising cost of energy. Unfortunately, it appears that the combination of the regulatory environment as well as the growing local opposition of certain wind, electric transmission and natural gas pipeline projects has inhibited the evolution of the competitive market in New Hampshire.

As not only business leaders, but as residents in the State of New Hampshire who appreciate the natural resources and quality of life that our great State has to offer, we also appreciate the need to balance the benefits of siting new energy transmission and generating facilities with the impacts on our environment and society. We believe that with a thoughtful and well defined regulatory environment this balance can be achieved without compromising both objectives.



We have reviewed the draft rules prepared by “Various Energy Groups” dated September 22, 2014 and find these rules to be clear, thorough and non-biased toward any specific interest. These rules fully embrace the requirements of SB 245 by establishing clear, comprehensive, and fair criteria for developers and the Committee. We urge the Committee to adopt this approach in formulating its Initial Proposal for rulemaking. We appreciate the opportunity to express our viewpoint on such an important topic that has far reaching impacts to the performance and viability of manufacturing and other large energy users in the State of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark R. Sawitsky', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mark R. Sawitsky  
Director – Global Engineering and Quality