

November 7, 2014

David K. Wiesner, Staff Attorney  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
12 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Site Evaluation Committee Draft Siting Criteria Rules

Dear Mr. Wiesner:

I am writing to you on behalf of the NH Sustainable Energy Association and our business and policy arm, the NH CleanTech Council, regarding the Site Evaluation Committee's notice for public comments on the rulemaking process required by RSA 162-H:10, VII.

NHSEA is the largest organization of supporters dedicated primarily to the advancement of renewable energy and energy efficiency in the state. As a non-profit, membership organization dedicated to sustainable energy, we promote practices and policies in NH that contribute to greater amounts of renewable energy, efficiency, and conservation, which serve to improve both our economy and our environment.

Having been long active in public education and policy, particularly in HB 1602 and SB 99 as relative to siting and prudent development policies, NHSEA, the NH CleanTech Council, and its members know intimately the importance in establishing clear, consistent, and enforceable siting rules that will allow a healthy balance between renewable energy project development and investment, and local, health, and environmental considerations. With careful consideration, these objectives can be achieved in a mutually inclusive fashion and produce results that serve the public interest. As HB 1602 clearly states, it is in the public interest for the Site Evaluation Committee to establish criteria in order to ensure that potential benefits are balanced against unreasonable adverse effects through a transparent, comprehensive, and predictable process. We believe that the draft rules dated September 22, 2014 offered by the coalition of energy groups would well accomplish this goal, and we support the contents proposed therein.

Following the language and legislative intent of both SB99 and HB 1602, the proposed rules do not favor the process toward any specific project. Rather, the proposed rules lay out clear criteria under which all energy facilities that are in the public interest must meet, giving ample room for local public input and a workable investment and regulatory environment for development to proceed. Issues such as aesthetics, historic

sites, and public health and safety are addressed by using professional standards commonly used in other jurisdictions that have a proven track record to balance all reasonable considerations held by diverse stakeholders.

I realize that this letter is outside the formal public comment period: I hope that you will consider our support of the September 22, 2014 draft rules offered by the various energy groups. Thank you,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Epsen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Kate Epsen**  
Executive Director