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April 29, 2024

The Honorable Kevin Avard
State of New Hampshire
Senate House
Room 115
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

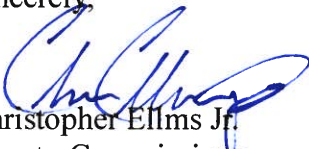
Dear Senator Avard,

I write to you regarding House Bill 1600, a bill that has been heard by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. At the hearing, the Department testified that we needed to continue to review the policy implications of the bill and to consider the possibility of unintended consequences. After several weeks of review of the legislation, the Department of Energy recommends that your committee **not move forward** with House Bill 1600 this year. The Department recommends reconsidering it in a future legislative session.

The Department appreciates the bill proponents' desire to undertake such a complex concept and their attempt to avoid the possibility of cost-shifting. However, we are concerned that this significant change to the state's approach needs a much more thorough vetting. Additional time ought to be spent to complete a comprehensive evaluation of the appropriate mechanics of the bill, the policy implications, the potential risks and unintended consequences, and the effect on other stakeholders. We must also consider how this change will fit in with the ongoing net metering and default service proceedings before the PUC, as well as the existing net metering structure as a whole and the statutes and Puc 900 rules that would be implicated. Stakeholders have also advocated for the consideration of other potential changes that, if enacted, would certainly make the Department of Energy opposed to the passage of HB 1600.

Moving forward, the Department of Energy will be happy to continue to evaluate the bill and related policy questions in an appropriate venue, whether it is in a study or informal working group. We will continue in our responsibilities to look out for New Hampshire's interests and make our recommendations accordingly.

Sincerely,



Christopher Ellms Jr.
Deputy Commissioner