



## Opposition Statement to HB219 and HB567

Submitted to the House Science, Technology, and Energy Committee  
Hearing Date: February 3, 2025 | Room 304, Legislative Office Building

Distinguished Members of the House Science, Technology, and Energy Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to **House Bill 219-FN (HB219)** and **House Bill 567 (HB567)**. As a business owner whose company, Froling Energy, specializes in biomass heating systems and combined heat and power (CHP) projects, I can unequivocally state that these bills threaten not only the future of renewable energy in New Hampshire but also the economic viability of local businesses, job creation, and the NH State's leadership position in sustainable energy solutions.

### 1. HB219: The Phase-Out of the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)

While HB219 proposes a gradual phase-out of the RPS over five years, the reality is that its impact will be swift and devastating. The mere anticipation of declining RPS requirements will cause Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) values to crash within the first year or two. This rapid devaluation undermines the financial stability of existing renewable projects and discourages future investments in clean energy technologies.

#### Economic Impacts:

- **Job Losses:** The renewable energy sector supports thousands of jobs in New Hampshire. Phasing out the RPS will trigger job losses across the biomass, solar, wind, and other renewable industries.
- **Business Uncertainty:** Companies like mine rely on the RPS framework to secure financing for projects. Without a stable REC market, investors will retreat, halting the growth of local renewable businesses.
- **Higher Long-Term Costs:** Although the bill projects short-term reductions in electricity costs, these savings are misleading. Over time, reliance on fossil fuels will expose ratepayers to volatile energy prices and undermine efforts to achieve energy independence.

#### Environmental Impacts:

- **Increased Carbon Emissions:** The RPS has been instrumental in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Eliminating it will reverse progress, increasing our carbon footprint and undermining New Hampshire's climate goals.



- **Energy Insecurity:** A diminished renewable sector makes us more dependent on out-of-state energy sources, compromising our energy security.

## 2. HB567: Elimination of Thermal Renewable Energy Certificates (T-RECs)

HB567 is a direct attack on biomass heating and CHP projects, industries that are pivotal to New Hampshire's renewable energy landscape. Thermal RECs are not merely financial instruments; they are essential to the economic feasibility of biomass heating systems. Their elimination would:

- **Collapse Project Financing:** T-RECs play a crucial role in project ROI calculations. Without them, the financing structure for biomass projects falls apart, making new installations financially unviable.
- **Hurt Local Economies:** Biomass fuels are sourced locally, supporting regional forestry operations and keeping energy dollars within New Hampshire. Removing T-RECs shifts energy spending away from local businesses.
- **Undermine Decarbonization Efforts:** Biomass heating is a proven, sustainable solution for reducing fossil fuel use in large facilities. HB567 would stifle these efforts, forcing many to revert to less sustainable heating methods.

### Conclusion

HB219 and HB567 represent short-sighted policies that jeopardize New Hampshire's economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and energy independence. The RPS and T-RECs are not burdens; they are strategic tools that have fostered innovation, job creation, and environmental stewardship.

I urge this committee to consider the broader implications of these bills. The renewable energy industry is not asking for handouts—we are asking for a stable, predictable policy environment that allows us to continue contributing to New Hampshire's economy and energy future.

Please vote **NO** on HB219 and HB567.

Respectfully submitted,

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