



The Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire
11 S. Main Street, Suite 203
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

tel [603] 230-9205
mobile [603] 496-9451
meredith.hatfield@tnc.org

February 3, 2025

Chairman Michael Vose
House Science Technology & Energy Committee
LOB 302-304
Concord, NH 03301

Re: HB219, relative to the phasing out of the minimum electric renewable portfolio standard, and HB567, relative to the elimination of useful thermal energy from renewable energy classes

Dear Chairman Vose and Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to express our opposition to both HB219 and HB567, which would undermine successful efforts to spur innovation, increase energy independence, and support the development of new, local energy resources in the New Hampshire.

Since 1961 TNC has been working in New Hampshire to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends, including engaging in energy policy. With our partners, local landowners, and the support of thousands of members, we have helped conserve nearly 300,000 acres of land, 680 miles of rivers and streams, and established 31 nature preserves across the state. We also work in close partnership with state agencies and the private sector on a broad range of projects, including helping communities improve infrastructure to withstand damage from extreme weather.

The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is a cornerstone of our state's energy policies to ensure that we meet the state's energy needs through innovation and competition, while promoting local energy sources and protecting our health and the environment. Locally produced energy reduces our need for electricity from the regional grid, which is subject to price volatility. Tools such as the RPS and the Renewable Energy Fund help municipalities, businesses, and residents reduce their reliance on imported fuels and increase their resilience. And as you heard last week, the RPS costs customers between one and three tenths of a cent/kWh while producing significant local investments.

Incentivizing the use of thermal energy is a key component of New Hampshire's RPS. We were the first state to create a thermal RPS program in 2012, helping customers including hospitals switch from costly and volatile imported heating fuels to wood chips and pellets. Including clean heat in the RPS supports New Hampshire customers and sustainable wood products industries, and should not be repealed from the RPS.

Please find these two bills Inexpedient to Legislate to avoid undermining policies that provide benefits to the people of New Hampshire and our economy. If you believe that these issues merit further investigation, we respectfully request that you amend the bill to become a study committee to consider these issues after the statutorily-required DOE report on the RPS is out later this year. RSA 362-F:5 requires regular reviews of the RPS and the next one is due to you by November 1, 2025. It will include "any recommendations for changes to the class requirements or other aspects of the electric renewable portfolio standard program."

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meredith".

Meredith A. Hatfield
Associate Director for Policy & Government Relations
The Nature Conservancy NH