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The Honorable Michael Vose, Chairman
Committee on Science, Technology and Energy
New Hampshire House of Representatives
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Chairman Vose and Members of the Committee:

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests appreciates this opportunity to express our opposition to HB 1542 and HB 1721. We respectfully urge the Committee to find both bills as Inexpedient to Legislate.

As you know, the fundamental purpose of the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is to encourage the development of renewable energy in and for our state. Specifically, NH RSA 362-F:1 states “Renewable energy generation technologies can provide fuel diversity to the state and New England generation supply through use of local renewable fuels and resources that serve to displace and thereby lower regional dependence on fossil fuels. This has the potential to lower and stabilize future energy costs by reducing exposure to rising and volatile fossil fuel prices. The use of renewable energy technologies and fuels can also help to keep energy and investment dollars in the state to benefit our own economy.”

The Forest Society’s interest in the RPS is based on our overarching mission to keep the State’s forests as forests. This goal, shared with other stakeholders, requires a multi-faceted approach that encourages and promotes sustainable forest management. Because maintaining the markets for New Hampshire’s forest products encourages landowners to invest in the long-term health of these areas, one key step needed to reach that objective is to strengthen those markets.

As an example, the Forest Society has invested in a wood chip boiler which now heats our headquarters here in Concord, thereby eliminating the use of thousands of gallons of #2 fuel oil each year. Instead, we use wood chips produced by our state’s loggers, foresters, truckers, and wood fuel processors. These industries employ many workers in New Hampshire and keep our energy dollars right here in our state.

The RPS continues to spur investment in modern wood boiler technology as well as solar and wind by local governments, public schools, and organizations like the Forest Society. These investments are keeping facility costs low and they support our local economy. Equally concerning, it weakens the ability for forestland owners to maintain the natural services forests provide like clean water, recreational opportunities, and wildlife habitats.

For these reasons, we would ask you to find HB 1542 and HB 1721 as Inexpedient to Legislate. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Matt Leahy, Public Policy Director
Society for the Protection of NH Forests