



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MARGARET WOOD HASSAN  
Governor

July 7, 2015

Dwight Brew  
Chairman, Board of Selectmen  
Town of Amherst

John D'Angelo  
Vice Chairman, Board of Selectmen  
Town of Amherst

Nate Jensen  
Clerk, Board of Selectmen  
Town of Amherst

Tom Grella  
Selectmen, Board of Selectmen  
Town of Amherst

Reed Panasiti  
Selectmen, Board of Selectmen  
Town of Amherst

Dear Members of the Amherst Board of Selectmen,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding your concerns with the proposed Northeast Energy Direct Project (NED Project) and your request that I reevaluate New Hampshire's membership in the New England States Committee on Electricity (NESCOE).

As we work to ensure that our state remains among the best places to live and work in the nation, we must address the high energy costs for both electricity and heating that are a burden on our citizens, our businesses, and our state. In order to reduce costs, we know that we need to continue to invest in demand-side resources like energy efficiency and demand response, continue our work to diversify our energy resources, and take steps to modernize our energy systems. But we also know that natural gas will play an important role as a bridge fuel in our energy mix for both thermal and electric generation needs, as it provides base-load support for renewables, is part of our transition to distributed energy, and is replacing dirtier fuels such as coal and oil.

As the state's Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) reviews new energy projects of all kinds, I agree that we must ensure that any proposed project will deliver real benefits to ratepayers and host communities, while also respecting local viewpoints and protecting our natural resources. The SEC should not approve projects that aren't right for New Hampshire and as a state we must work together to innovate, negotiate, and get to solutions that lead to a stronger, more diverse and affordable energy future.

As we develop energy solutions that work for our people and businesses, we must also recognize that we are part of a regional grid with regional energy challenges and that the federal government plays the lead role in some energy decision-making. As part of a regional grid, many of our challenges must be addressed collaboratively across state borders. If we are not at the table for these regional discussions, we risk other states taking steps that would adversely impact New Hampshire.

By participating in NESCOE and other regional forums, New Hampshire has a seat at the table during important regional and national energy discussions, ensuring that our state's interests are considered as we work to collaboratively solve problems such as high energy costs and an aging energy infrastructure, which we share with the other five New England states. By participating in NESCOE, New Hampshire is able to speak with a louder voice on the regional and federal level. If we were to remove ourselves from NESCOE, we would deny ourselves a forum in which to raise and address concerns important to Granite Staters, which is critical to protecting our state's interests and advocating for things that are important to New Hampshire. Because so many important energy decisions that impact our state are made outside of New Hampshire, I believe that we must stay engaged in order to represent and protect our interests.

As we work toward a stronger, more affordable energy future, we cannot withdraw into ourselves simply because we do not agree with all of the ideas that have been proposed. It is my strong belief that we must remain at the table as we work to advance our shared economic, energy, and environmental goals. We also bring important perspectives about the need to craft solutions to our energy challenges that take the long view, harness private market forces to pay for investments, and respect local landowner and community priorities.

Thank you again for your letter. I look forward to working with you to address our shared energy challenges and to find energy solutions that are best for our state and our people.

With every good wish,



Margaret Wood Hassan  
Governor