



March 30, 2017

Debra A. Howland
Executive Director
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301
executivedirector@puc.nh.gov

Subject: Docket No. DE 16-576 - Electrical Distribution Utilities Development of Alternative New Metering Tariffs: **Support of the Coalition Settlement**

Dear Director Howland:

The Town of Hanover is developing a warrant article for this year's Town Meeting which will commit the Town to reaching a goal of obtaining 100% of our electricity from renewable sources by 2030 as part of the Sierra Club's "Ready for 100 Action" initiative. Communities like Hanover need the support of our electric utilities and the regulatory community in order to meet this ambitious goal. To enable New England to shift to a hybrid grid and to support implementation of alternative generation technologies, it is critical that electricity customers continue to be allowed to participate on a level playing field rather than moving back toward the monopoly-driven system which has caused our electric rates to continue to spiral ever higher. Without net metering and real time pricing options, the cost to move away from monopoly-generated, non-sustainable sources of electricity will become more expensive and all consumers will be forced to pay substantially more for electricity.

Net metering has provided individuals and communities the ability not only to control their costs but has also benefitted the grid by allowing small investors to develop projects that help to increase overall system reliability. It is critical that net metering caps be eliminated as a means of facilitating a shift toward renewably-generated electricity.

Current electric rates are typically far higher than the actual free market cost. The Town as well as all customers would have the ability to save considerably more if real time pricing was introduced. And, communities like Hanover can turn those savings into more investment in renewable sources of electricity. The grid will also benefit when customers have the ability to

choose to shift their loads to off peak times, reducing the system peaks which are the main drivers of higher costs.

Without net metering and real time pricing, the big winners are the large power generators and distribution utilities at the expense of the consumers. Utilities have an obligation to provide the best energy pricing to their customer. **Therefore, the Town of Hanover requests that the Public Utilities Commission support the Joint Settlement Proposal from the Energy Future Coalition.**

Sincerely,



Julia N. Griffin
Town Manager