

Dear PUC Commissioners,

I watched the above proceedings on Dec 21-22, 2020.

I am shocked that the PUC staff would want to throw out the year of hard work of the people coming to a unanimous consensus with the utilities, saying the settlement terms are too ambitious. Please support the agreement!

There is a context for all this I'd like to express.

Even the utilities understand that climate change is real and we must act on that awareness immediately. Disasters, diseases and extinctions are happening at an increasingly faster rate. After giving of my time and studying climate change for some years now I'm so afraid it's too late already!

Even the fossil fuel industry is beginning to accept that fossil fuels are on the way out and are beginning to change their business plans. Small, medium and large corporations and the financial investment sector are finally seeing that their interests lie in accepting a complex social/scientific reality with feedback loops and are moving forward on sustainability. Let's not remain in an old siloed paradigm. Please don't think about just the rate. Look at the net benefits which were described to you. All the pieces are connected. Every MW we don't use is a reduction in the rate of worsening lives, in our local, national and international economies. Economies cannot be decoupled from climate change. Businesses in NH must join the rest of us and do their share to stop this threat to civilization. We have a social justice movement today because we can't just make the rich richer and the poor and middle class poorer without devolving into a place of anger, irrationality, unrest and violence. Whose economy is it?

When we don't create energy efficiency in NH our rates are raised since our share of the cost of transmission from ISO-NE goes up with increasing peak demand.

We increase poverty by sending our money out of state instead of creating local jobs. President-elect Biden says when he thinks of climate change he thinks, "jobs". Green jobs in NH will keep that money in-state. Energy efficiency (which comes first) and renewables will make us more resilient in the coming dangerous times. Energy efficiency is something we can do now and it will lower costs far into the future. We can't put real efforts off any longer. Refusing to look must no longer be acceptable.

The Upper Valley had a weatherize campaign this past August and the money ran out so they suggested they get on a waitlist for 2021 so some of that money is already spoken for. Concord is about to start a weatherize campaign. People are getting the idea that it saves money in the long run and makes them feel good that they are doing their part to save the greater world wide community.

I have watched Michael Vose, now Chairman of the Science, Technology and Energy Committee, over the last few years and have found him to be most disingenuous. He gives lip service to climate change but his actions do not indicate that he cares. He associates with Americans for Prosperity and the BIA. It appears to me that his letter, along with other climate-ignoring representatives, are using the pandemic as an excuse to see what they can get away with by pulling on emotional triggers, without evidence or alternative plans. They appear to adhere to a simplistic, unworkable government-off political ideology, or worse. Please don't be persuaded by them.

The utilities don't want businesses to go out of business. It's not good for their own business. The settlement saves all ratepayers money. It is just, reasonable and cost effective. Businesses are managed by people who will also be affected by upsetting the ecosystem that we all need just to live. Denial is not an answer. This year we have been experiencing what it's like for states and individuals to be left on their own to deal with an international health emergency. People get upset and turn on each other and are used by politicians and others for their own selfish purposes. We lose our capacity for civil discord and democracy. People suffer and die and the problem gets much worse when we elevate individuality to our highest value.

The idea that energy use equals economic growth is not true today, if it ever was. The idea of endless growth is not rational. We can't just go along with vested interests and think the economy will remain stable. We must respond to the number one problem of global warming. Energy efficiency is key. Jobs of the future must move toward a sustainable ecosystem. I don't want to be an enabler of businesses that don't understand that. What about the costs of maintaining the status quo? They can't get more dire. Everyone wins when we use less energy. If large users of

energy want to save money, and want to exist in the future, they should be using the subsidy to put in their own renewable energy sources-where energy efficiency comes first. One residential home at a time will not take us where we need to go. The overall economy will not thrive if we are spending our money on one disaster after another. We're all connected-like it or not. Green jobs is the way to respond to the economic effects of the pandemic.

I keep reading about how relatively wealthy NH is. Currently NH is last in NE on energy efficiency. That doesn't sound too ambitious to me.

Please support the terms of the settlement agreement.

Respectfully,

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