

Mr. Daniel Goldner
Chairman
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-2429

October 31, 2023

Re: Docket No. DE 23-068 - 2024-2026 Triennial Energy Efficiency Plan

Dear Chairman Goldner;

I am writing to express Ceres' strong support for renewal of the NHSaves program for the 2024-26 triennium. As an organization that collaborates with businesses and employers with significant operations in New Hampshire, Ceres advocates for policies that help accelerate investment in clean energy and energy efficiency in the Granite State.

For years, Ceres has submitted testimony in favor of the continuing work of NHSaves because it has delivered an excellent return on investment to the state. Renewal of the program for 2024-26 will cut costs for almost 40,000 businesses and consumers, by both lowering individual energy usage and through the deployment of demand response mechanisms that reduce the need to purchase energy during peaks when it is most expensive to produce.

Ceres and local New Hampshire businesses have long supported energy efficiency financing programs because of their cost-effective benefits to consumers, companies, and the entire electrical grid. This is why we organized the [New Hampshire Clean Energy Principles](#), a joint effort between [New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility](#) and Ceres designed to demonstrate that investing in clean energy is good for the business community.

Ceres submitted a [statement](#) in 2021 from 26 New Hampshire-based businesses in support of utility proposed savings targets of 4.5% for electric and 2.8% for natural gas in the settlement agreement for the 2021-23 Statewide Energy Efficiency Plan. These businesses supported the targets because investments in energy efficiency not only help businesses cut costs, they also support some of the state's highest paying jobs and will help drive the state's economic recovery. In 2019, nearly 17,000 New Hampshire residents worked in clean energy, with over 11,000 employed by the energy efficiency sector¹.

Additionally, in 2020, Ceres supported the renewal of the NHSaves program in energy efficiency measures through a [letter](#) to the Office of the NH Consumer Advocate to the PUC from Business

¹ <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-06/USEER23-NH-v2.pdf>

for Innovative Climate and Energy Policy (BICEP), a coalition of more than 70 major employers and large electricity customers across the United States with significant operations in New Hampshire. This letter highlighted the benefits from reduced emissions to public health, and the benefits to business from less volatile pricing of clean energy compared to that of fossil fuels. BICEP also twice submitted PUC [testimony](#) in support of renewal of the NHSaves program in 2020.

As the shift away from fossil fuels continues to unfold, particularly in the electrification of the transportation and heating sectors, energy efficiency financing remains an essential strategy to shave peak demand, reduce price volatility, and reduce strains on our grid. Efficiency measures help contain costs, improve grid reliability, and grow our workforce and economy. For these reasons, we support the triennial renewal of the NHSaves program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff Mauk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jeff Mauk
Director of State Policy, Eastern Region, Ceres