



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

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

February 24, 2020

Dear Municipal Leaders,

As local elected officials, you understand the challenges of municipal energy costs and finding creative ways to alleviate the burden of high electric rates on local taxpayers. Over the past several years, net energy metering has been heavily debated at the State House. I have a plan to get net metering done in an innovative way that protects ratepayers while expanding access to renewable energy, and I am asking you to join me in these efforts.

Seeking to find a middle ground this session, I worked with a handful of representatives interested in finding a true bipartisan compromise this year. It was through these discussions that I announced my support for a package of clean energy legislation to help cities and towns better control their energy costs through expanded group net metering.

My longstanding concerns over adverse ratepayer impacts are still a primary concern, however, the language of House Bill (HB) 1402, establishing procedures for municipal host customer-generators of electrical energy, has earned my support because it opens doors of opportunity for municipalities while still protecting ratepayers. This legislation also has the support of the New Hampshire Municipal Association and environmental advocates.

HB1402 is the best opportunity to promote clean energy and achieve progress on net metering legislation this term. This bill builds on the existing group net metering law and creates a “municipal host exemption” that allows a municipality to group its public facilities together and net meter their renewable generation above 1 megawatt. Ultimately, a municipality would be able to net meter 100 percent of its usage at current rates.

I have worked to reach this compromise because I know how important this issue is to our cities and towns. Over 80 communities have projects under consideration that would benefit from HB1402 and many more could benefit in the future. Despite bipartisan support for these measures, I was disappointed that the House of Representatives put politics first and voted HB 1402 down – despite broad agreement that this bill would make a difference for cities and towns.

These bills would expand access to net metering, open new opportunities for clean energy development, and allow towns to better control their electric bills. Most of all, these bills protect ratepayers and remove government barriers instead of enacting new ones – something past clean energy-related legislation has not been able to accomplish.

There is still time to reach an agreement. That said, I need your help as local leaders. HB1402 will allow municipal clean energy projects to move forward and offer property tax relief to local taxpayers. I am asking you to show your support for expanded net metering for municipalities by reaching out to your representatives and senators in Concord. With your help, we can put politics aside and deliver results by ushering in a new clean energy era in New Hampshire.

If you or anyone from your town would like more information on these bills and how they can help municipalities across the state, I would encourage you to reach out to Matt Mailloux from my office. You can reach him at 603-271-2155 or matthew.mailloux@osi.nh.gov

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Sununu
Governor