



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

**CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU**  
Governor

January 18, 2022

Dear Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

Energy efficiency is a key energy resource for New Hampshire, providing benefits for our grid, our environment, and our ratepayers. New Hampshire's 10-Year State Energy Strategy calls for prioritizing "cost-effective energy efficiency in all sectors, including buildings, manufacturing, and transportation." At the same time, recent proposals made before the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) would have forced New Hampshire ratepayers to bear significant rate increases of the System Benefits Charge. These increases, as high as 168% for some commercial and industrial customers, would have represented a severe burden for our job creators.

Recent decisions by the PUC regarding the 2021-2023 Triennial Energy Efficiency Plan have raised operational concerns from stakeholders. Given the effects of those decisions, I asked the Department of Energy to work with legislators to put together a long-term solution that would resolve the situation. House Bill 549, with the amendment being brought forward today, is that solution.

House Bill 549 will provide legislative accountability, programmatic stability, and cost-effectiveness for ratepayers. This bill will give greater consistency to New Hampshire's ratepayer-funded energy efficiency for both those benefiting from the programs and those paying the costs. It provides the structure to ensure that these programs are set up for long-term success. I ask you to vote to support House Bill 549 as amended and expeditiously move it forward to my desk for my signature.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chitck T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor