



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

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

July 24, 2020

Governor's Veto Message Regarding Senate Bill 124

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on July 24, 2020, I have vetoed Senate Bill 124, relative to the minimum electric renewable portfolio standards.

Last year when I vetoed Senate Bill 168, relative to Class II RPS requirements, I called that bill "crony capitalism at its worst." This bill has proven that statement wrong.

Senate Bill 124 is a direct handout to politically well-connected industries. It has the potential to cost electric ratepayers \$300 million annually in new subsidies, with more than \$100 million per year of ratepayer money going to fund solar developers' profits. This bill has set a new standard when it comes to cronyism at its worst.

This bill would counterproductively increase electricity rates while we are working to rebuild our economy. New Hampshire ratepayers are already burdened with some of the highest energy bills in the nation. This makes it hard both for businesses to expand and for residents on fixed incomes to pay their bills each month.

Putting the outrageous cost aside, New Hampshire would need to devote 20 square miles of land to achieve the solar energy goal this bill sets. This is an area more than 3 times the size of Lake Sunapee. The environmental land use considerations appear to be lost on the proponents of this bill.

This bill presents an utterly unserious policy proposal. There are fundamentally better ways to reduce emissions. Earlier this year I put forward a plan to boost renewable energy in the state without creating new subsidies or picking winners or losers in the energy sector. My plan, which was killed on party lines, was a responsible alternative to this bill's irrational approach to energy policy.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed Senate Bill 124.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor