

Bonenfant, Janice

From: mccarthy.eileen@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, March 11, 2024 10:32 AM
To: chamby@comcast.net; Fennessy,Nathan; Sexton, Amanda; Keach, Fred; Kurtz,Judith; Brenttoddconcord@gmail.com; Horne,Michele; Kretovic, Jennifer; Kmcnamaraward4@gmail.com; Brown,Stacey; Pwmclaughlin24@gmail.com; Jim4concord@gmail.com; Ali Sekou; Schultz,Kris; Jeff Foote; * City Clerk
Subject: Concord and the Community Power Coalition of NH
Expires: Saturday, February 20, 2027 12:00 AM

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Dear City Counselors,

My name is Eileen McCarthy, and I am a constituent in Concord's Ward 5.

As a Concord resident deeply committed to sustainable energy practices, I enthusiastically support the Environment and Energy Advisory Committee's (EEAC) recommendation to enroll Concord in community power and join the Community Power Coalition of NH (the Coalition). The upcoming vote today, March 11th, presents a crucial opportunity for our city to take a significant step toward a cleaner, more resilient energy future.

Allow me to share my perspective as a resident who actively contributes to our community's energy landscape:

Rooftop Solar Array Owners: Having installed a rooftop solar array on my home in 2015, I've experienced firsthand the benefits of clean, renewable energy. Solar power reduces my electricity bills and contributes to a healthier environment. By joining the Coalition, Concord can amplify the impact of individual solar installations like ours, creating a collective force for positive change.

Electric Vehicle Drivers: As an electric vehicle (EV) owner since 2019, I appreciate the importance of transitioning to sustainable power sources. EVs contribute to lowering greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing air quality. By supporting community power, we can accelerate the adoption of EV-friendly infrastructure, such as charging stations powered by renewable energy sources.

Why Concord Should Join the Coalition:

Economic Benefits: The Coalition's collective bargaining power ensures competitive and stable energy prices. We can secure cost-effective energy services that benefit households and local businesses by leveraging our combined strength. The Coalition's success in surpassing utility pricing and outperforming for-profit brokers underscores its effectiveness.

Environmental Responsibility: Concord's aspiration to procure 100% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030 closely aligns with the Coalition's mission. By joining forces, we can accelerate our transition toward cleaner energy sources, reduce our carbon footprint, and protect our natural environment for future generations.

We ask you to please vote in favor of community power and join the Community Power Coalition of NH. Let's take this opportunity to make Concord a leader in sustainable energy practices. We can create a resilient, environmentally friendly energy system that benefits us all.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I look forward to celebrating Concord's commitment to community power.

Eileen McCarthy
7 Merrimack Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-496-6616

Bonenfant, Janice

From: susanwoodsnnh@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2024 2:58 PM
To: Fennessy,Nathan; Byron Champlin; Keach, Fred; asekou@concord@concordnh.gov; Schultz,Kris; Jeff Foote; brenttoddconcord@gmail.com; Kretovic, Jennifer; kmcnamaraward4@gmail.com; Brown,Stacey; pwmclaughlin24@gmail.com; jim4concord@gmail.com; * City Clerk; mhome@concordnh.go; Sexton, Amanda; Judith Kurtz
Subject: Community Power Vote TONIGHT

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Dear Mayor, City Council Members and the City Clerk,

My name is Susan Woods and I am a resident of Ward 5. I was very pleased to learn of the Environment and Energy Advisory Committee's (EEAC) recommendation to the council to enroll in community power and join the Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH). I am writing to urge you to vote in support of their recommendations and to vote to join CPCNH on March 11.

I have consulted for an independent energy provider in NH (who withdrew from the supply market) so have some firsthand experience in the wild and wooly world of independent energy broker and suppliers.

I hope the City Council will follow the recommendation to participate with CPCNH versus the broker model primarily because CPCNH can accumulate reserves. in the future this allows CPCNH to participate in ISO-New England which will allow CPCNH to participate fully in the wholesale electricity market thus supporting the supply of energy in NH. Reserves will allow CPCNH to potentially smooth out energy pricing and once Concord has accumulated excess reserves Concord will be able to support its own local energy supply.

By joining CPCNH Concord can tap into a wealth of resources, expertise, and collaborative efforts that will reduce improve how our electricity is purchased, and help us transition towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly energy system as is envisioned in the City's goal adopted in July 2018 that 100% of electricity consumed in the City will come from renewable energy sources by 2030. We won't get there if the vast majority of our residents continue to purchase power from our public utilities. The public utilities play all sorts of games buying credits that allow them to say you are buying green power but it's not real. It would be a game changer if Concord, through its participation in CPCNH could support local energy supply.

I hope you give the recommendation full consideration. I have heard there are concerns about the lack of control. Concord participates in programs with other municipalities such as PRIMEX. We will never get the scale we can get through CPCNH by going it alone with a broker.

Thank you,

Susan Woods
11 Dwinell Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Jessica Forrest <jforrest714@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 9, 2024 3:13 PM
To: Councilor Champlin; Fennessy, Nathan; Sexton, Amanda; Keach, Fred; Kurtz, Judith; Brenttoddconcord@gmail.com; Horne, Michele; Kretovic, Jennifer; Karen D. McNamara; Brown, Stacey; Pwmclaughlin24@gmail.com; Jim4concord@gmail.com; Ali Sekou; Schultz, Kris; Jeff Foote; * City Clerk
Cc: Adam Pignatelli
Subject: Your Community Power Vote

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Dear City Councilors,

Thank you for all that you do. We write in favor of Community Power for Concord, including joining the Community Power Coalition.

Moving to Community Power is in the best interest of Concord residents for a few reasons: Financially, Community Power should provide residents access to lower electricity rates and at least provide options between providers. On the environment, it will accelerate our transition to renewable energy, reduce our carbon footprint and help the community of Concord to reach our renewable energy goal of 100% renewable electricity by 2030. It should also help us on our way to reaching our greenhouse gas emissions reductions commitments under the Climate Mayors Agreement, Race to Zero, and the NH Climate Action Plan.

The shift to renewables will be required in the coming decades, if not sooner. Fossil fuel energy will become less available and more expensive. That shift in cost is already well under way. Concord should be at the forefront of these changes. It is also a moral imperative for our family-friendly community to pass a more sustainable infrastructure to our children and grandchildren.

We also favor joining the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire. Community Power is new to Concord as it is to other cities and towns in the coalition. The coalition has been doing a lot of groundwork and research on how to implement, and this will be beneficial to Concord. We will be able to more efficiently plan and implement Community Power by becoming members of the coalition, and contribute what we learn to the group to make the process more efficient overall. Concord should not have to reinvent the wheel - we believe this efficiency will reduce overall costs and time to implement.

Thank you for your consideration and thoughtful vote on March 11.

Jessica Forrest and Adam Pignatelli
18 Kensington Road, Concord

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Kretovic, Jennifer
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 1:38 PM
To: Bonenfant, Janice
Subject: Fwd: Please Vote YES to Adopt Community Power

Hello Ms. Bonenfant,

Please include the message from Mr. Eaton in the public comments for Community Power for Monday's Meeting.

Thank you!

Jennifer

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From: Joel Eaton <joel.arthur.eaton@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 4:43:48 PM
To: Jkretovic@concordnh.gov <Jkretovic@concordnh.gov>
Subject: Please Vote YES to Adopt Community Power

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Dear Jennifer,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Joel Eaton, and I am newly one of your constituents in ward 3, having just moved this past January 2024. I look forward to getting to know our new neighborhood. I am writing because I heard that the vote on community power is coming up and I want you to know how I feel.

I was very pleased to learn of the Environment and Energy Advisory Committee's (EEAC) recommendation to the council to enroll in community power and join the Community Power Coalition of NH (the Coalition). I am writing to urge you to vote in support of their recommendations and to join the Coalition on March 11th.

As the EEAC found in the past six months of research, the Community Power Coalition of NH has been instrumental in the launch of municipal electric aggregation across the state and has consistently outperformed the rates offered by the utilities and the brokers. By joining the Coalition Concord can tap into a wealth of resources, expertise, and collaborative efforts that will reduce the burden of high energy costs for our residents, and help us transition towards a more sustainable and environmentally friendly energy system as is envisioned in the City's goal adopted in July 2018 that 100% of electricity consumed in the City will come from renewable energy sources by 2030.

Two of the reasons I particularly support the move to enroll in community power and join the Coalition have to do with my concern for renewable energy and for local control.

The Coalition is at the forefront of advocating for and implementing renewable energy projects. Joining the Coalition will create a way to complete community-scale renewable energy projects that will reduce the electric bills of all residents. This will increase access to renewable energy, which has previously been largely confined to wealthy homeowners. The Coalition is also dedicated to creating innovative rates that will encourage battery storage and other technological solutions to managing our electric demand. The Coalition offers power options that are 24.3%, 33%, 50% and 100%

renewable energy and their rates for the 33% renewable option have been LOWER than the Public utility's 24.3% renewable baseline. The Coalition is the pathway to meeting our energy goals.

Membership in the Coalition would not only move us positively toward renewable energy goals, it would provide Concord with increased control over our energy choices compared to purchasing from Eversource or UNITIL or being locked into a long broker-contract. It would allow us to develop and implement localized, community-driven energy plans that align with our unique needs and values. You may have heard that the City would sacrifice its autonomy by being part of a Coalition, but we know that if the City wants to have a say in how the coalition is governed, our representative will have ample opportunity to serve on committees and exert influence in the decision making of the Coalition. Having only one vote in the collective decision making of the Coalition is a small tradeoff for the dramatically better performance the Coalition has demonstrated. The risk of joining the Coalition is low: municipalities can withdraw from the coalition at any time if they are unhappy. In the broker model, municipalities have to ride out the multiyear contract and then renegotiate.

I understand that decisions of this nature require careful consideration, and I appreciate the work you do on behalf of our city. I believe that joining the Community Power Coalition of NH is a positive step towards a more sustainable and resilient future for Concord.

I am more than willing to discuss this matter further or provide any additional information that may be helpful in your decision-making process. Thank you for your time and dedication to the well-being of our community. I look forward to getting to know you better as our ward councilor.

Sincerely,

Joel Eaton

218 North State Street
Concord, NH 03301

(603) 443-3671
joel.arthur.eaton@gmail.com

Dear City Council & Mayor Champlin-

Hello! My name is Mark Davie and I am a resident at 42 N. State Street and a new resident to Concord. I am writing in support of community power for Concord. I believe that this provides a unique type of community empowerment, especially for renters myself. It was disappointing to see Maine's Question 3 fail last year and the community power effort began over two decades ago in Massachusetts. This is an effort years in the making that has provided ample time to learn from others. I believe in the Coalition's ability to do right by Granite Staters and this movement could be part of a greater snowball effect nationwide.

Thank you for considering this matter.

On a related note, I was not able to attend the March 4 priority-setting discussion. I'd like to express support for exploration of the following items from the 14-year-old energy chapter of the Master Plan in further discussion of mayor and council's priority-setting as we enter a new term.

- 4.d. Support planning for rail service from Concord to Boston.
- 7.b. Implement a plastic bag ban in the City.
- 7.d. Conduct a feasibility study on establishing a municipal curbside composting program and composting facility.

Sincerely,



Mark Davie 3/7/24
42 N. State St. Apt. 11
Concord, New Hampshire 03301
(301) 789-6679
mndavie_32@msn.com

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Nicole Fox <nicolech@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 7:52 PM
To: * City Clerk
Subject: Community Power

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City councilors,

I want to voice my support both for Community Power overall, but also for membership in the Community Power Coalition of NH. The City's Energy and Environment Advisory Committee has spent an enormous amount of time and energy into researching these topics and I think you should follow their guidance. This is a complicated issue and they have done their due diligence to fully understand the issues.

The benefits of joining the Coalition include the flexibility to adjust rates more frequently than using a for-profit broker, particularly in an uncompetitive market. It is my understanding that the City would be able to leave the Coalition at any time if they feel that either the rates or governance aren't in the City's best interests.

I think we should trust the opinions of the dedicated members of CEEAC and I am asking you to vote for both Community Power and joining the Community Power Coalition of NH.

Thank you for your attention.

Nicole Fox

Ward 5

Bonenfant, Janice

From: Meredith Cooley <meredithcooley@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 3:35 PM
To: Byron Champlin; Fennessy, Nathan; Sexton, Amanda; Keach, Fred; Kurtz, Judith; Brent Todd; Horne, Michele; Kretovic, Jennifer; Kmcnamaraward4@gmail.com; Brown, Stacey; Pwmclaughlin24@gmail.com; Jim Schlosser; Ali Sekou; Schultz, Kris; Jeff Foote; * City Clerk
Subject: Vote YES to Community Power & the CPCNH

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Dear Mayor Champlin and City Councilors,
I hope you all are doing well. I'm writing to urge you all to **vote yes** on March 11th to EEAC's recommendation for the City of Concord to adopt CP through the CPCNH. It's the right move for Concord. Below is the My Turn I submitted last Sunday which explains my stance.
Thank you for your service,
Meredith Cooley

Empowering Concord: Why Joining the Community Power Coalition is a Smart Move

It is clear to me that Concord stands at a pivotal moment in its energy future. In a time marked by growing environmental and economic concerns, communities across NH (on the heels of the country and the northeast) are seeking innovative solutions to address the pressing challenges of energy affordability and sustainability. As residents, we have the opportunity to shape this future by urging our City Councilors to vote in favor of joining the Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH) at the City Council meeting on March 11th. This decision holds immense potential for Concord, offering a pathway towards sustainability, affordability, and local control over our energy resources.

I was thrilled to hear about the recent recommendation by the Environment and Energy Advisory Committee to enroll in community power and join CPCNH (you can read the report and recommendation to City Council from the Feb. 12 Council meeting agenda published on the city website concordnh.gov). Through months of research, it has become clear that CPCNH is not just a coalition; it's a catalyst for positive change in how we approach energy.

The economic benefits of CPCNH membership are undeniable. My neighbor, who served on the Community Power subcommittee, explains that the move to Community Power through the CPCNH is similar to moving from shopping retail to shopping wholesale - the cost savings is unbeatable. By leveraging collective bargaining power and strategic procurement, CPCNH can secure affordable and stable energy prices, benefitting both residents and local businesses. The coalition has consistently outperformed utility rates and for-profit brokers, saving communities millions of dollars. Moreover, CPCNH's financial reserve ensures stability against future cost fluctuations, empowering us to make sound long-term investments in energy. Concord residents **WILL** save money on their energy costs! Beyond economic gains, joining CPCNH opens doors to renewable energy initiatives that can transform our city. CPCNH empowers municipalities to make smart investments in renewable energy infrastructure at community scale, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and promoting environmental sustainability, while reducing electricity bills. I want to be able to tell my children that we set them and future generations up for greater energy self-reliance!

But perhaps the most significant advantage of joining CPCNH, in my opinion, is the community engagement and empowerment it fosters. Membership in the coalition ensures active participation in governance, with transparent decision-making processes that safeguard our interests. This collaborative approach empowers us, as residents, to shape policies and programs that align with our values and priorities, creating a more informed and environmentally conscious community.

I feel that the concerns about loss of autonomy and competitiveness are natural, but unfounded. CPCNH prioritizes local control and accountability. Member municipalities retain decision-making authority over key aspects of energy planning and implementation. Moreover, CPCNH's track record of success speaks for itself with consistently lower rates and greater savings compared to traditional utility and broker models. With CPCNH's proven track record and flexibility in the marketplace, Concord can confidently join our many neighbor towns and cities in the coalition to work collectively towards our long-term sustainability goals.

Joining CPCNH is a smart move that empowers Concord to achieve our energy goals while improving affordability, sustainability, and local control. Let's seize this opportunity to shape our energy future collaboratively and secure a brighter, greener tomorrow for Concord. Please join me at the City Council meeting on March 11th to urge City Council to vote YES!

Meredith Cooley - Concord NH

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Meredith Cooley, RN, MSN
meredithcooley@gmail.com