



June 17, 2021

To: Concord Mayor Jim Bouley, City Manager Tom Aspell, & Concord City Council

Cc: Concord Energy & Environment Advisory Committee

From: Lebanon Assistant Mayor Clifton Below; Hanover Town Manager Julia Griffin; Cheshire County Deputy Administrator Rod Bouchard; Nashua Energy Manager Doria Brown

Subject: Invitation to Join Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire

Dear Mayor Jim Bouley, City Manager Tom Aspell, and Concord City Council,

We are writing to invite the City of Concord to join Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire, a soon-to-be-incorporated public nonprofit to support Community Power programs across the state. There is no cost associated with joining the Coalition.

Since late 2019, we have collaborated to investigate national best practices for Community Power markets. Through this process, we have come to understand that the “Coalition Model” for Community Power has the greatest potential to deliver long-term energy cost savings and increased ability for New Hampshire communities to develop local clean energy projects that directly benefit our residents and businesses.

Under the “Coalition Model,” cities, towns, and counties establish a “Joint Action Agency” to enable joint exercise of their local authorities, in this case, “Community Power” or “Electric Aggregation” authorities provided for under New Hampshire RSA 53-E, Relative to Aggregation of Electric Customers by Municipalities and Counties.

Working with the legal firm Duncan Weinberg Genzer Pembroke PC, a firm with 50 years of national experience and expertise supporting municipal and public power enterprises, we developed the “Joint Powers Agreement” to establish Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire. The Joint Powers Agreement has been approved by the New Hampshire Attorney General for conformity with NH statutes. The Lebanon City Council, Nashua Board of Aldermen, and the Select Boards of Hanover, Harrisville, Exeter, and Rye have all voted (unanimously) to adopt the agreement and join the Coalition.

We envision two phases of Coalition membership. First, Coalition members benefit from peer-to-peer resource sharing across the state and support for designing and launching their Community Power programs. Secondly, if and when a city or town chooses to move forward with Community Power, that Coalition member will benefit from shared services and economies of scale in terms of energy procurement, administrative and operational support, and project development opportunities (such as community solar projects).

There is no cost to joining the Coalition. Once Coalition members launch Community Power programs and begin providing electric power supply to their residents and



businesses, Coalition operations will be funded through revenues associated with customers' electricity purchases.

As a public nonprofit, Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire will be governed by its member communities. Up until there are more than 21 members, each member will appoint a representative to the Coalition's Board of Directors. This ensures good governance, accountability, and financial transparency. If the City of Concord elects to join the Coalition, upon incorporation the City will appoint a representative to the Board. This representative can be an elected official, a staff person, a member of a committee or commission or a volunteer selected by the City.

We believe Community Power and the Coalition present a significant opportunity to empower our cities and towns to realize their energy goals, including reducing and stabilizing costs and stimulating local economic development of clean energy technologies.

If the City of Concord wishes to entertain this invitation, we recommend the following:

- Review the "Joint Powers Agreement";
- Join the Coalition by Select Board vote approving the Joint Powers Agreement for adoption; and
- Consider establishing an Electric Aggregation Committee in accordance with RSA 53-E:6 (which may be a sub-committee of an existing committee).

Our goal is to welcome 5-12 New Hampshire cities, towns, and counties into the Coalition by August of this year in preparation for incorporation. Concord has been a leader on energy issues, and we are pleased to invite the City to join us as an early member of this Coalition.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of us for further discussion.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Clifton Below, Assistant Mayor, City of Lebanon

Julia Griffin, Town Manager, Town of Hanover

Rod Bouchard, Assistant County Administrator, Cheshire County

Doria Brown, Energy Manager, City of Nashua



**COMMUNITY
POWER COALITION**
OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
For communities, by communities.



Attachment A: Example Motions

Hanover Select Board, 1/25/21, Item 4

Lebanon City Council, 2/3/21, Item C

“Councilor Bronner MOVED, that the Lebanon City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to enter into an intermunicipal agreement known as the “Joint Powers Agreement” under the provisions of New Hampshire RSA 53-A to create the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) for the purpose of supporting member municipalities and counties in developing and implementing electric aggregation plans, pursuant to RSA 53-E, as well as related statutory authorities.

BE IT FURTHER MOVED, that the Mayor, in consultation with the City Manager, is authorized to appoint a City representative and an alternate to the CPCNH Membership and Board of Directors.”

Exeter Select Board, 5/10/21, Item 6.b

“Ms. Gilman moved that Exeter join the newly formed Community Power Coalition and further authorize the Town Manager to sign the Joint Powers Agreement.”

Nashua Board of Aldermen, 5/11/21, R-21-133 (page 4)

“Authorizing the City of Nashua to enter into a Joint Powers Agreement of Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire.”

Attachment B: Joint Powers Agreement

Available for download from this page (under Join the Coalition): :
<https://www.cpcnh.org/about>.