



# City of Concord, New Hampshire

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY HALL • 41 GREEN STREET • 03301

JIM BOULEY  
MAYOR

June 9, 2020

The New Hampshire General Court  
New Hampshire Statehouse  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

**Subject: Municipal Leaders Call on State Leaders to Pass Common-Sense Net Metering Legislation**

Dear Governor Sununu, State Senators, and State Representatives,

We represent a critical mass of New Hampshire city and town administrators, city and town managers, city councils, select boards, and local energy committees from communities across the Granite State. We share with you the common and honorable duty of public service: representing the interests of our communities, constituents, and taxpayers to ensure our great state is well-served and remains the best place in the nation to live and work. In addition, we have an added responsibility of communicating to you, our elected officials at the Statehouse, the important issues facing our respective cities and towns and provide the guidance and encouragement to move forward policies that will benefit our residents.

It is with this knowledge and intention that we reach out to you with this letter. Despite the unprecedented challenges facing our state and our nation from the COVID-19 virus, we have the great hope that, once the legislature reconvenes, you and your colleagues will work together to pass legislation to expand the net metering project cap size. This legislation is one of the greatest opportunities that communities have to lower costs, increase local energy independence, and meet sustainability goals by taking advantage of economies of scale to install renewable energy projects that meet our energy needs.

The global pandemic and associated economic impact we now face only cements this issue as a critical one for rebuilding workforce, lowering local property taxes, spurring outside investment into our treasured communities, and increasing in-state energy production that avoids the need for costly new transmission infrastructure and bolsters energy independence. We would like to express our support for a commonsense compromise approach that would allow political subdivisions (cities, towns, counties, school administrative units) as well as low-moderate income community solar projects to net meter and group net meter any type of renewable energy projects

up to 5MW under current programs and credits now available to projects up to 1MW. We also support and think it is necessary to make available the same opportunity for businesses after careful review by the Public Utilities Commission of the appropriate value of the net metering credit for renewable projects that serve businesses.

We therefore urge you to prioritize this issue when the legislature reconvenes. We ask you to put politics aside in favor of supporting the expressed needs of the communities you represent. We need to finally make progress on this issue now. Doing so will spur the economy following the COVID-19 pandemic by removing an arbitrary regulatory barrier to allow towns with shovel-ready projects the opportunity to move forward. By moving this policy forward you can truly make a difference by promoting workforce development, lowering local property taxes, empowering local communities, encouraging the investment of our energy spending locally, and increasing energy independence at a time when all are desperately needed.

Most Sincerely,

Jim Bouley  
Mayor, City of Concord

The Cities of:

- Berlin
- Claremont

The Towns of:

- Exeter
- Hanover
- Groveton
- Sugar Hill

The Energy Committees of:

- Ammonoosuc Regional Energy Team
- Franconia
- Shelburne