New Hampshire Renewable Energy Legislation That Supports Concord's Energy Goals

SB286-FN-L relative to Municipal Aggregation: This bill will better enable towns to implement innovative, customer-choice approaches to energy procurement. Here are a few bullet points about the legislation:

- Municipal aggregation is a policy municipalities can implement to broker for energy supply on behalf of their community. Communities can broker for energy based on cost, environmental attributes, or other preferences such as local energy resources.
- New Hampshire's municipal aggregation statute is flawed. It allows only for "opt-in" programs, meaning residents must sign up one at a time to participate in the program. SB286 will allow municipalities the option of implementing "opt-out" programs, in which community members will be automatically enrolled unless they choose not to participate. Successful aggregations require a critical mass of participants to achieve sufficient bulk purchasing power and economies of scale, which is provided by the opt-out model.
- Other states with successful municipal aggregation programs (often referred to as Community Choice Aggregation) have demonstrated the success of the opt-out model. Some 1300 communities across the nation are implementing municipal aggregation to enable savings and access to more renewable energy.

SB365, SB13, and SB159, which raises the per-project size cap on net metered projects from 1 MW to 5 MW:

- HB365, SB159, and SB13 would **allow large energy users like municipalities, schools, and businesses to invest in renewable energy projects that are properly-sized for their needs**, and as a result, **control their energy costs.**
- HB365, SB159, and SB13 **implement the recommendation of a legislative study committee tasked with understanding energy cost drivers**. In 2017, SB125 established a committee to study transmission, distribution, generation, and other costs in the state's electricity system. The final report recommendations "are intended to offer the New Hampshire General Court the opportunity to mitigate and lower the cost of electricity in the state." One of the committee's recommendations to achieve this is to increase the capacity of projects eligible to participate in net metering from 1MW to 5MW.
- Large net metering projects **continue to pay all utility charges related to demand, transmission, distribution, stranded costs, system benefits, and taxes**. "Large" net metering projects, i.e., projects between 100 kilowatts (kW) and 1 MW, only receive credit for the value of the electricity they produce. The same would be true for net metering projects sized up to 5 MW under these bills.

- Distributed energy resources like net metered renewable generation **reduce peak demand** and reduce the need for expensive transmission projects or upgrades.
- The energy industry and rate experts at the NH Public Utilities Commission found in their order that set the most recent net metering tariffs “that there is little to **no evidence of any significant cost-shifting”** imposed by net metering.
- Investment in local renewable energy development, like the 1 to 5 MW projects that would be made possible by HB365 and SB159, **keep our energy dollars in state, create good jobs, and support local businesses.**