

August __, 2018

The Honorable Chuck Morse
President of the Senate

The Honorable Gene Chandler
Speaker of the House

The Honorable Jeff Woodburn
Senate Democratic Leader

The Honorable Steve Shurtleff
House Democratic Leader

Dear Senate President Morse, Speaker Chandler, Senator Woodburn, and Representative Shurtleff:

We the undersigned mayors of the cities of Berlin, Claremont, Concord, Dover, Franklin, Keene, Laconia, Lebanon, Manchester, Nashua, Portsmouth, Rochester and Somersworth respectfully ask that the Senate and House vote to override Governor Chris Sununu's vetoes of Senate Bill 446 and Senate Bill 365, when you return to session on September 13th.

We believe strongly that clean and local renewable energy and greater efficiency in how we use all energy will be vitally important to our cities' future economic vitality and environmental quality. As such, we favor policies enacted at the state level that reinforce existing renewable electric generation, foster expansion of new renewable energy technologies through net metering, and greater investments in efficiency. We believe both Senate Bill 446 and Senate Bill 365 represent such policies, and we are appreciative that strong bi-partisan majorities of both chambers of the NH General Court did as well during voting in the session that just ended.

Notwithstanding Governor Sununu's veto messages on these bills, we believe these bills will engender long term savings to ratepayers and reinforce critical energy supply diversity. SB 446 will enable our cities to attract private investments in clean energy which will, in turn, directly lower rates for our citizens. A number of our communities are working on projects to accomplish those goals. Unfortunately, those projects would have to be shelved if SB 446 is rejected. Hundreds of millions of dollars in solar and hydropower projects are now at risk of not being realized because of this situation. This is an error which can still be corrected.

We also stand with our neighboring communities that the impact of the veto on SB 365 is harming local jobs and local economies. For example, nearly 1,000 jobs directly tied to the biomass industry in New Hampshire are at risk of being lost. In addition, a recent Plymouth State University study concluded the biomass industry contributes \$254 million dollars to the state's economy each year in a variety of ways that benefit our energy sector, protect wildlife and the preserve our state's forests. There are serious unintended consequences involved in vetoing SB 365 which can be avoided with an override vote.

Impacts of the vetoes are already being felt by the state's \$1.4 billion timber industry; projects taken offline, biomass plants shuttered, workers furloughed and an imbalance between energy policy and the state's economic and environmental policies. We must reverse these impacts. These two bills reflect the right balance between forward-thinking energy policy, basic economics and preserving a strong and healthy environment for New Hampshire. It's precisely why both proposals received overwhelming support earlier this year from both the NH House and Senate.

We respectfully ask that you, as leaders of the two chambers, communicate our support for the veto overrides of Senate Bill 365 and Senate Bill 446 to your respective caucuses. Our state must look forward on energy policy and recognize that investments in local, cleaner and more efficient energy will generate innumerable benefits to our cities, our towns, and our citizens into the future.

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Paul Grenier
Mayor of Berlin

Charlene Lovett
Mayor of Claremont

James Bouley
Mayor of Concord

Karen Weston
Mayor of Dover

Tony Guinta
Mayor of Franklin

Kendall Lane
Mayor Keene

Edward Engler
Mayor of Laconia

Suzanne Prentiss
Mayor of Lebanon

Joyce Craig
Mayor of Manchester

James Donchess
Mayor of Nashua

Jack Blalock
Mayor of Portsmouth

Caroline McCarley
Mayor of Rochester

Dana Hilliard
Mayor of Somersworth

Cc: Honorable members of the NH State Senate
Honorable members of the NH House of Representatives