

GRANITE STATE HYDROPOWER ASSOCIATION, INC.

TWO COMMERCIAL STREET
BOSCAWEN, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03303

TELEPHONE: 603-753-4577
EMAIL: gsha@essexhydro.com
WEBSITE: www.granitestatehydro.org

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Senator Bradley to be Honored for Supporting Local Clean-Energy Economy

CONCORD, NH – Senator Jeb Bradley of Wolfeboro will be honored on November 8th for his strong leadership and support of small business owners in New Hampshire’s renewable energy industry, including the small hydro industry. The Granite State Hydropower Association will present Senator Bradley with the “Powerhouse Award” at their upcoming quarterly meeting. Bradley is the Majority Leader in the state Senate, Chair of the Health & Human Services Committee, and a member of the Energy & Natural Resources Committee and the Internal Affairs Committee.

Bradley has long supported owners and operators of small hydropower facilities located throughout the state. These small businesses owners collectively pay millions of dollars each year in state and local property taxes, business taxes, lease payments, water-user fees, and equipment and services purchased from New Hampshire companies. They also provide good-paying jobs for local residents.

In the 2012 Legislature, Senator Bradley sponsored a bill to enhance opportunities for existing producers of renewable energy in the state, especially small hydro plants and biomass generators. Bradley’s leadership, knowledge, and hard work garnered strong bipartisan support for Senate Bill 218, which passed the Senate 23-0 and the House 292-52. The bill is clearly a win-win for New Hampshire’s ratepayers, economy, and environment.

Bradley said the previous law had made it difficult for long-standing local facilities that produce renewable electricity to stay in business. “I felt it was important to level the playing field so that existing plants were not disadvantaged,” Bradley said.

Richard Norman, President of the Granite State Hydropower Association, said, “The Association greatly appreciates the time and effort that Senator Bradley and his colleagues spent on this important bill. Hydropower is an emissions-free, renewable, and local source of electricity vital to energy diversity. Because of Jeb’s bill, small hydro facilities that have existed for decades have a better opportunity to stay in business. That’s good for energy production, for tax revenue, and for jobs.”

The Granite State Hydropower Association is a voluntary, non-profit trade association of the small-scale independent hydropower industry in New Hampshire. Members own, operate and manage more than 50 hydroelectric facilities located throughout the state, totaling around 40 megawatts. These small businesses collectively generate about 142 million kilowatt hours annually – enough to power 23,000 homes for one year. For more information, visit www.granitestatehydro.org.