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Press Release
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Senator Kelly Honored for Supporting Local Clean-Energy Economy

CONCORD, NH – Senator Molly Kelly of Keene was honored on October 30th for her 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 presented Senator Kelly with the “Powerhouse Award” at their biannual meeting. Kelly is in her fourth term and serves on the Senate’s Health, Education and Human Services Committee as well as Rules, Enrolled Bills & Internal Affairs.

In the 2013 Legislature, Senator Kelly sponsored Senate Bill 98, Authorizing Group Net Metering for Limited Electrical Energy Producers, which was signed into law on July 24, 2013. This bill was a pro-consumer, pro-business, pro-renewable piece of legislation to help control long-term energy costs, keep businesses here in New Hampshire, and promote distributed generation that can lower and stabilize rates for all consumers. Because the law is technology-neutral, it will help promote all types of small-scale renewable power throughout the state.

Kelly’s leadership, knowledge, and hard work garnered strong bipartisan support for Senate Bill 98. The Senator said the state’s previous net metering law did not allow businesses, residents, and municipalities to share the benefits of renewable electricity that is produced on a single site. “I felt it was important to allow group net metering here in New Hampshire, to give consumers an option to control their energy costs and businesses an incentive to stay and expand in the state. Beyond the economic advantages, there will be environmental benefits and innovation. This is clearly a win-win,” Kelly said.

Richard Norman, President of the Granite State Hydropower Association, said, “The Association greatly appreciates the time and effort that Senator Kelly and her colleagues in the Legislature spent on this important bill. Hydropower is an emissions-free, renewable, and local source of electricity vital to energy diversity. Because of SB 98, small hydro facilities that have existed for decades in New Hampshire can participate in group net metering. This new opportunity is good for consumers, renewable energy production, and the tax revenues and jobs that go along with that.”

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 60 hydroelectric facilities located throughout the state, totaling around 50 megawatts. These small businesses collectively generate about 215 million kilowatt hours annually – enough to power 24,000 homes for one year. For more information, visit www.granitestatehydro.org.

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