

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 13, 2018

Media Contact: Brianna Brand, NHSEA Senior Program Director

brianna@nhsea.org, 603-226-4732

Legislature Splits Support for Renewable Energy Bills

Final votes on vetoed bills leave one veto overridden, the other sustained

Concord, NH – The NH Legislature performed a notoriously difficult task today by voting to override the Governor’s veto of SB365, a bill to support NH’s six independent biomass plants and waste-to-energy facility. The Senate vote was 21-3 for the override, but the House vote was much closer, 226-113. The House overrode Sununu’s veto by a single vote.

Since Sununu’s June vetoes of SB365 and another renewable energy bill, SB446, a concerted effort was launched to correct the misinformed actions.

“The Legislature made the right call to override the veto of SB365. When you consider the vast impacts this bill has not only on various sectors of NH’s economy, but also on NH’s established and treasured values, the small cost is vastly outweighed by the benefits,” said Jasen Stock, Executive Director of the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association. “In addition, the override successfully protects NH from the long-term \$17 million annual cost our state would have to pay to replace lost generation capacity. Our state’s forestry, recreation, tourism, and agricultural industries were on the line, and we thank the Legislature for hearing the facts and fixing the Governor’s mistake.”

Unfortunately for NH’s electricity consumers, the Legislature’s affirmative votes did not extend to SB446, another bill championed by broad bipartisan support that would have raised the net metering project cap from 1 MW to 5 MWs.

“SB446 was designed to correct an arbitrary regulatory cap that is restrictive to large businesses and municipalities,” said Madeleine Mineau, Executive Director of the NH Sustainable Energy Association. “One megawatt is not enough to cover the energy needs of a large school or a manufacturing facility. In order to enable these entities to control their own energy costs and



The N.H. House voted 226-113 to override Gov. Sununu’s veto of SB 365 – passing the override by a single vote. Earlier, the N.H. Senate voted 21-3 to override the veto.

provide opportunities for all ratepayers to benefit from cost-saving renewable energy, the project cap needs to be raised so projects can be sized correctly.”

Prominent NH businesses including Dartmouth-Hitchcock, FoodState, Worthen Industries, and Wirebelt, as well as many NH cities and towns, were outspoken proponents of SB446. “In a state where many electric costs are out of our control in the regional market, this bill offered a tremendous opportunity for NH to promote freedom of energy choice, greater competition in the energy market, and more energy independence through diverse, local generation,” said Bob King, Co-President of the Granite State Hydropower Association. “It is unfortunate that the Legislature did not support a bill so important for NH’s energy future.”

About the NHTOA

Founded in 1911, the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association is a non-profit statewide coalition of landowners, forest industry professionals, government officials and supporters who work together to promote better forest management, conserve our working forests and ensure a strong forest products industry. The NHTOA strives to conserve New Hampshire's working forests for future generations through public and industry education, legislative advocacy, outreach and cooperation within the forest community.

About the NHSEA

Established in 2003, the New Hampshire Sustainable Energy Association is a statewide non-profit, member-based organization. NHSEA's mission is to strengthen New Hampshire’s economy and conserve natural resources by promoting a transition to clean, efficient, and renewable energy. NHSEA sees a future for NH that empowers the people of our state to generate, use, and benefit, both economically and environmentally, from, renewable energy and maximum efficiency. NHSEA is the leading advocate for advancing the state’s clean energy economy.

About the GSHA

The Granite State Hydropower Association is a voluntary, non-profit trade association for the small-scale independent hydropower industry in New Hampshire. Members of GSHA own, operate and manage more than 60 hydroelectric facilities located in 40 local and cities, totaling approximately 50 megawatts (MWs). GSHA members are part of New Hampshire’s small business community, with facilities that are 5 MWs or less and typically below 1 MW.