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February 10, 2021

The Honorable Michael Vose
Chair, House Committee on Science, Technology and Energy
Legislative Office Building
Concord NH 03301

Dear Representative Vose and Honorable Members of the ST&E Committee:

The New Hampshire Association of Counties House would like to express its opposition to HB 315 relative to electric customers' aggregation (HB 315).

In 2019, Governor Sununu demonstrated his leadership on energy issues when he signed into law an update to RSA 53-E, Relative to Aggregation of Electric Customers by Municipalities and Counties. This "Community Power Law" democratizes energy by enabling cities, towns, and counties to procure and provide electricity and related services on behalf of their residents and businesses.

Over the past year several counties, have begun to leverage this benefit for their communities. House Bill 315, as introduced, would render RSA 53-E ineffective and undercut businesses' innovative potential to offer customers new products and services through Community Power. This bill would strengthen monopoly control over competitive markets, burden communities with burdensome regulations, and sabotage municipalities' potential to make their own energy supply decisions through Community Power. HB 315 entirely undermines the intent of Governor 'Sununu's innovative update to RSA 53-E, which was supported by a bipartisan legislature.

Community Power represents the "New Hampshire Way" forward on energy issues, one that chooses markets over mandates, local control over monopoly control, and innovation over-regulation. Please do not allow this attack on Community Power to take away our local authorities.

Please, vote "No" on HB 315.

Sincerely,

Wendy Piper
President
New Hampshire Association of Counties