



February 11, 2021

Hon. Michael Vose, Chairman  
House Science, Technology & Energy Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 304  
Concord, New Hampshire

Via Electronic Mail Only

*Re: HB 315, relative to the aggregation of utility customers*

Dear Chairman Vose:

I write to express the Municipal Association's strong opposition to HB 315. We are concerned that the bill's extensive changes to RSA 53-E will render municipal aggregation of electricity impossible or ineffective.

The current language of RSA 53-E resulted from a 2019 bill, SB 286, that had overwhelming bipartisan support, receiving unanimous "ought to pass" committee recommendations in both the Senate and the House and passing both chambers on a voice vote. Since 2019, municipalities have been working to implement the statute's provisions to provide lower energy costs and enable greater use of renewable energy sources.

I am no expert on energy matters, but I am informed that HB 315 would render these efforts futile. We are at a loss to understand why the legislature would consider eliminating this option for municipalities. We have heard from many municipal officials in opposition to the bill, and I know the committee will as well. We urge you to listen to those concerns and find HB 315 inexpedient to legislate.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cordell A. Johnston  
Government Affairs Counsel

cc: Committee members