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,

   [Signature]

   Cordell A. Johnston  
   Government Affairs Counsel

   cc: Committee members