



City of Keene
New Hampshire

February 10, 2021

RE: House Bill 315, Relative to Aggregation of Electric Customers

Dear Members of the New Hampshire House Science, Technology & Energy Committee,

On behalf of the ten mayors listed below, I respectfully urge you to vote “No” on House Bill 315, relative to the aggregation of electric customers (HB 315).

Community Power aims to harnesses competitive markets and economies of scale to help lower energy costs and give communities greater choice. We are excited about the potential benefits that Community Power can bring to New Hampshire residents and businesses, especially given the struggles that many are currently facing. But those benefits will never be realized if HB 315, without significant modification, becomes law.

As currently written, HB 315 requires that the municipality or county mail written notification to each retail electric customer within the municipality or county, while also requiring that the municipality or county only use addresses in public records of the municipality for such customers. This provision alone would make it impossible to comply with the law, since a municipality’s public records do not contain the addresses of each electric customer within the municipality. In addition, HB 315 removes the requirement for the utility to share customer data after the adoption of a plan, which would make it impossible for the City to forecast our load and prepare for a successful bidding process.

In addition to making it infeasible to run a program, this bill would add layers of unnecessary regulatory review, adding time and expense to the process to develop and launch a program. The process to develop and adopt an electric aggregation plan is already rigorous and includes multiple public meetings and public hearings prior to adoption by the legislative body of the municipality or county. Requiring each individual plan to be submitted to the Public Utilities Commission for review would place an unnecessary and onerous burden on local communities.

I urge you to support the efforts of New Hampshire communities to control energy costs



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and invest in clean and sustainable energy sources by voting “No” on HB 315.

Sincerely,

George Hansel, Mayor of Keene

Jim Bouley, Mayor of Concord

Jim Donchess, Mayor of Nashua

Robert Carrier, Mayor of Dover

Timothy McNamara, Mayor of Lebanon

Charlene Lovett, Mayor of Claremont

Caroline McCarley, Mayor of Rochester

Rick Becksted, Mayor of Portsmouth

Paul Grenier, Mayor of Berlin

Joyce Craig, Mayor of Manchester