

YOR

CHAIRMAN
Martin P. Honigberg

COMMISSIONERS
Kathryn M. Bailey
Michael S. Giaino

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Debra A. Howland



42

TDD Access: Relay NH
1-800-735-2964

Tel. (603) 271-2431

FAX (603) 271-3878

Website:
www.puc.nh.gov

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

July 31, 2019

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) requests **RETROACTIVE** authority to renew its membership and participation in the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA), Vendor # 218801, for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, for an amount of \$10,000. Funding is 100% Renewable Energy Fund.

Funding is available in account, Organizational Dues, as follows:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>
02-81-81-81150010-54540000	Renewable Portfolio Standard 362-F:10	
010-081-54540000-026-500251	Membership Fees	\$10,000.00

EXPLANATION

CESA is a national nonprofit organization that works with municipal, state, and federal agencies as well as other organizations to promote and develop clean energy technologies, and to create and expand the market for these technologies. It facilitates and supports collaborative initiatives, provides technical assistance, coordinates multi-state peer-to-peer discussions, initiates collective analysis activities, and develops studies designed to accelerate clean energy deployment. Commission membership in CESA provides the State's various energy-related agencies with a range of services and technical support. Such services and support are provided as an integral part of membership participation. Of particular benefit is the support CESA provides to member states as they study distributed energy and its value to the grid and develop programs such as the low moderate income solar program required with the passage of Senate Bill 129 (2017) and Senate Bill 165 (2019). CESA's approach is to emphasize strategies and best practices that effectively address financing challenges, promote technological innovation, and encourage economic development.

Membership dues are paid from the Renewable Energy Fund, established pursuant to RSA 362-F:10. The amount budgeted for this membership was established during the biennial budget process but the annual dues are determined based on the proceeds directed to the Renewable Energy Fund (i.e. alternative compliance payments). Revenues directed to the Renewable Energy Fund for fiscal year 2020 are approximately \$2.6 million (unreconciled). Membership dues were determined by CESA and billed to the Commission after July 1, 2019; therefore, the submission to Governor and Council is a **RETROACTIVE** request.

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Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Council approval of organization dues and membership submissions:

- 1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?** CESA was founded in 2002. The Commission has been participating in CESA since 2010.
- 2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?** There is no other organization that provides the same or similar benefits to the Commission.
- 3. How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?** Seventeen other states (plus Washington D.C. and one municipal entity) are members of CESA, including Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Commission is the New Hampshire agency that is the Core CESA member. However, through its Core membership, the Commission may appoint up to two state agencies for participation in CESA as Affiliate members. The New Hampshire Office of Strategic Initiatives and the Department of Environmental Services have been appointed as Affiliate members to receive technical advice on clean energy and development from state and federal counterparts, as well as other membership benefits.
- 4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.)** CESA's dues structure is assessed annually based on relative renewable energy budget size and starts at \$10,000. States with more sizable clean energy budgets pay considerably more (for example, states with annual budgets greater than \$20 million pay \$68,500, in membership dues to CESA).
- 5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?** As a member of the CESA organization, the state has access to the collective expertise of a national network of experts to study clean energy challenges and develop solutions including, for example, through direct assistance on program design, and information sharing through CESA projects focused on Low-Moderate Income Community Solar, Energy Storage, Off-Shore Wind, Grid Modernization, Renewable Heating and Cooling, and Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). In addition, through CESA, state clean energy program managers are able to learn about and evaluate innovation and best practices from across the country to continually improve the effectiveness of clean energy program investments.
- 6. Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.** The cost for training and educational/research materials is included in the membership. CESA hosts informational webinars so CESA members can receive updates on project initiatives and results, recent developments in the clean energy field, and timely clean energy updates and opportunities for inter-member and member-federal collaborations. CESA also maintains a Members-Only section of the CESA website, which contains news updates exclusively compiled for Members, important notices relevant to CESA member programs, notices of upcoming members-only webinars, and presentations and recordings from member webinars and in-person meetings. In addition CESA hosts collaborative session(s) annually where members can meet with their national colleagues, discuss successes and challenges in their programs, develop new joint projects, and learn about the opportunities available to their programs through innovative finance, policy, and market initiatives. The meeting(s) also feature advice from and dialogue with leading representatives of clean energy finance, storage technologies, industry, federal agencies, and other stakeholders. Members receive complementary registration to these meeting(s), including lodging and meals. Also included is ongoing access to the meeting materials.
- 7. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.** No, membership in CESA is not required to receive federal grants or participate in licensing or certification exams. However, through the membership, the Commission was selected to participate in the Solar Energy Innovation Network, an 18-month collaborative research effort administered by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, Solar Energy Technologies Office to explore new ways

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solar energy can improve the affordability, reliability, and resiliency of the nation's electric grid. Through a NREL grant CESA will pursue a multistate initiative, including New Hampshire, to identify locations for distributed energy resources that provide benefits to the grid. In addition, in 2014, the Office of Energy and Planning (now Office of Strategic Initiatives) was a recipient of a federal Rooftop Solar Challenge Grant with other CESA state members.

8. **Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known and purposes of membership supported trips.** No travel is included with this membership fee except as noted in #6.
9. **Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization?)** All Commissioners and staff can be involved in CESA activities such as training and seminars. Through the Affiliate membership, Staff of the Office of Strategic Initiatives and Department of Environmental Services may also take advantage of CESA offerings. Currently, the Commission does not have any members on the CESA Board and, therefore, does not vote in CESA Board meetings.
10. **Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.** The Commission manages the state's Renewable Energy Fund (REF), which finances renewable energy projects and initiatives through grant and rebate programs. Since inception, the REF has awarded over 7,000 rebate payments totaling more than \$30 million to individuals, businesses, non-profit entities, towns and schools. In addition, the Low Moderate Income (LMI)-program awarded 6 grants totaling approximately \$900,000 to develop community solar projects which will provide direct benefits to LMI residents. The REF's competitive grant program has also provided over \$11 million for 39 renewable energy projects in New Hampshire. The Commission relies on CESA for guidance in designing and implementing these programs, benefitting from the collective experience of the other members states as well as CESA's staff. Specifically this fiscal year, the Commission will rely on CESA resources and experience during its modifications of existing rebate programs and the implementation of Senate Bill 165 (Low Moderate Income Community Solar). If the Commission did not belong to CESA, the State would not have access to research on clean energy matters, extensive training opportunities, collaborative sessions with colleagues in federal agencies and other states, and nationwide information on best practices to use in administering the REF and implementing programs.

Your consideration of our request is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Martin P. Honigberg
Chairman

Attachment

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50 State Street, Suite 1
Montpelier, VT 05602

Voice: 802-223-2554

Fax: 802-223-4967

EIN 27-0029803

INVOICE

Invoice Number: FY20 MBR-NH

Invoice Date: Jul 17, 2019

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Duplicate

Bill To:
NH Public Utilities Commission Karen Cramton 21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301-2429

Ship to:
NH Public Utilities Commission Karen Cramton 21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10 Concord, NH 03301-2429

Customer ID	Customer PO	Payment Terms	
NHPUUT01		Net Due	
Sales Rep ID	Shipping Method	Ship Date	Due Date
	Electronic		7/17/19

Quantity	Item	Description	Unit Price	Amount
		Year 17 (Fiscal Year 2020) Assessment Core Member of Good Standing July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020		10,000.00

Subtotal	10,000.00
Sales Tax	
Total Invoice Amount	10,000.00
Payment/Credit Applied	
TOTAL	10,000.00

Check/Credit Memo No: