

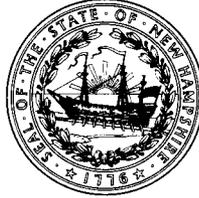
30 *SPM*

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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October 1, 2014

Retroactive

Her Excellency, Governor Margaret Wood Hassan
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Your Excellency and Honorable Councilors:

REQUESTED ACTION

The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (Commission) requests **RETROACTIVE** authority to continue its membership and participation in the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA), Vendor # 218801, for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, for an amount of \$15,000. Funding is 100% Renewable Energy Funds, a non-lapsing special fund continually appropriated to the Commission pursuant to RSA 362-F:10.

Funding is available in account Organizational Dues, as follows:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>FY 2015</u>
02-81-81-81150010-54540000	Renewable Portfolio Standard 362-F:10	
010-081-54540000-026-500251	Membership Fees	\$15,000.00

EXPLANATION

CESA is a national nonprofit organization that works with a diversity of states, municipal, and federal agencies, industry, and other stakeholders to promote and develop renewable energy and energy efficiency programs. It facilitates and supports collaborative initiatives, provides technical assistance, and develops analysis and 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 guidance and information CESA provides to member states as they develop strategies and policies to effectively address financing challenges, drive technological innovation, grow green jobs and encourage industry development.

Membership dues are paid from the Renewable Energy Fund, established pursuant to RSA 362-F:10, and are calculated in relation to the size of the participating program. The amount budgeted for this membership was established when revenues for the Renewable Energy Fund were expected to be approximately \$5.6 million for FY 2013. Additional revenues were received above the budgeted amount which, in turn, increased the membership fee. Upon receipt of the invoice, the Commission worked with CESA to renegotiate the membership fee. As a result, the submission to Governor and Council is a **RETROACTIVE** request.

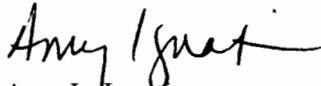
Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Council approval of organization dues and membership submissions:

- 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?** Thirteen other states are members of CESA, including Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont. The Commission is the sole New Hampshire agency that is a CESA member. However, as a member, the Commission can appoint the Office of Energy and Planning and the Department of Environmental Services as Affiliate Members who would enjoy a subset of membership rights, including participation in joint projects, and access to open sessions of membership meetings, as well as direct consulting services on a discounted fee basis to address program and policy development, creation of written materials, testimony, publicity, stakeholder engagement, legal analysis, and identification of funding and partnership opportunities.
- 4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.)** CESA's dues are 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, for FY 2015, Massachusetts and Connecticut will each pay \$68,500; Vermont will pay \$10,000).
- 5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?** As a member of CESA, the state will have access to the collective knowledge of a national network of experts to study clean energy problems and develop solutions including, for example, assistance in program design, drafting grant solicitations, and the development of technical considerations for use in reviewing grant applications. In addition, through CESA, state clean energy program managers are able to learn about and evaluate program 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.** Training and educational/research materials are included in the membership at no additional charge. CESA hosts monthly 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 Core 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 two collaborative sessions 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 meetings also feature advice from and dialogue with leading representatives of clean energy finance, industry, federal agencies, and other stakeholders. Members receive complementary registration to these meetings, including all meals, and scholarships to cover travel and accommodation costs. 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 in order to receive federal grants or participate in licensing or certification exams.
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?)**
Commissioners and Commission staff, as well as Affiliate Members DES and OEP staff, can be involved in CESA activities such as training and seminars. Currently, Jack Ruderman, Director of the Commission's Sustainable Energy Division, is a member of the CESA Board.
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. Over the past five years, the REF has awarded more than 1,900 rebates totaling more than \$8.7 million to individuals, businesses, non-profit entities, towns and schools, with an aggregate applicant investment of over \$40.9 million. In addition, the REF's competitive grant program has provided \$5.5 million for renewable energy projects in New Hampshire, leveraged by over \$34.8 million in grantee investments. 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. If the Commission did not belong to CESA, the State would not have access to unbiased research on sustainable 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.

Your consideration of our request is appreciated.

Sincerely,


Amy L. Ignatius
Chairman

Attachment



TO: Jack Ruderman
Director, Sustainable Energy Division
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 S. Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

FROM: Warren Leon, Executive Director

DATE: July 1, 2014

RE: Invoice for Year Twelve (Fiscal Year 2015) of the Clean Energy States Alliance –
Membership Fee

INVOICE

Amount Due:	\$17,800
Date Due:	September 1, 2014

Please make your check payable to **“Clean Energy States Alliance”**,
Federal ID #27-0029803

Based on the funding formula contained in Appendix B of the Clean Energy States Alliance Memorandum of Understanding that New Hampshire PUC – Sustainable Energy Division has executed, the Fiscal Year 2014 assessment for your organization is \$17,800. Payment of this amount to CESA will place NH PUC as a Core Member of good standing from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

Please send your check, **payable to “Clean Energy States Alliance,”** on or before September 1, 2014 to:

Maria Blais Costello
c/o Clean Energy Group
50 State Street, Suite 1
Montpelier, VT 05602

If you have any questions or need any additional materials to process this invoice, please contact Maria at 802-223-2554, email: maria@cleanegroup.org. Thank you.