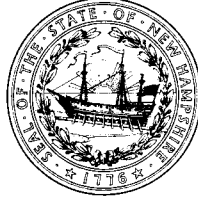


YAR 55

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



CHAIRMAN
Martin P. Honigberg

COMMISSIONERS
Robert R. Scott
Kathryn M. Bailey

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Debra A. Howland

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

October 27, 2016

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, 2016 through June 30, 2017, 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 2017</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 municipalities, states, federal agencies and other organizations to promote and deploy 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 collaborative projects, 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 support CESA provides to member states as they develop programs, approaches, strategies and best practices to effectively address financing challenges, promote 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. The amount budgeted for this membership was established during the biennium 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 2017 are approximately \$4 million. The membership dues increased this year because last year the Commission negotiated a membership fee at a much lower annual budget tier given ACP revenues declined from approximately \$17 million to approximately \$3.2 million (FY 15 to FY16). Upon receipt of the invoice, the Commission worked with CESA to renegotiate the membership fee for the budget tier to facilitate a more gradual transition to the full membership fee for this funding level. Membership dues were determined by CESA and billed to the Commission after July 1, 2016; therefore, 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?** Twelve other states 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 Energy Planning and the Department of Environmental Services have been appointed as Affiliate members to receive technical advice on renewable energy promotion 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, Massachusetts and Connecticut each pay approximately \$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 will have access to the collective expertise of a national network of experts to study clean energy problems and develop solutions including, for example, through assistance in program design, drafting grant solicitations, and the development of technical considerations for use 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.** The cost for training and educational/research materials is included in the membership. 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 meals and receptions. 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. However, through the membership, the Office of Energy and Planning 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. 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 more than 4,000 rebate payments totaling more than \$20 million to individuals, businesses, non-profit entities, towns and schools. In addition, the REF's competitive grant program has provided \$8 million for 29 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. 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,



Martin P. Honigberg
Chairman

Attachment

CESA - Clean Energy States Alliance

50 State Street, Suite 1
 Montpelier, VT 05602

INVOICE

Invoice Number: FY17 MBR-NH
 Invoice Date: August 1, 2016
 Page: 1

Duplicate

Voice: 802-223-2554
 Fax: 802-223-4967

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

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

Customer ID	Customer PO	Payment Terms	
NHPUUT01		C.O.D.	
Sales Rep ID	Shipping Method	Ship Date	Due Date
	Electronic		10/1/16

Quantity	Item	Description	Unit Price	Amount
		Year 14 (Fiscal Year 2017) Assessment Core Member of good standing from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 (Negotiated rate)		15,000.00
Subtotal				15,000.00
Sales Tax				
Total Invoice Amount				15,000.00
Payment/Credit Applied				
TOTAL				15,000.00

Check/Credit Memo No: