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For Immediate Release
June 4, 2014

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NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGISLATURE PASSES DIVESTITURE BILL

Concord, NH: The New England Power Generators Association (NEPGA) today lauded the New Hampshire House of Representatives and Senate for voting to pass HB 1602, legislation requiring the state's Public Utility Commission (PUC) to open a proceeding by January 1, 2015 to make a determination whether it is in the economic interest of Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH) customers for PSNH to continue to own and operate rate-base generation assets. PSNH is the only utility in New England to both own large generation assets and fully allow its customers the ability to buy electricity from the open retail electric supply markets.

NEPGA joined with virtually every other industry stakeholder in supporting this important legislation. Dan Dolan, President of NEPGA, speaking about today's vote said, "Passage of this bill puts the critical question of whether PSNH customers must continue to bear the burden of paying higher and higher costs for PSNH's plants at the PUC to be decided once and for all." He continued, "HB 1602 represents a recognition that the current split system in which PSNH relies upon its customers to bear all costs and risks of its generation ownership, while many of those same customers exercise their choice of retail electric supplier, is not sustainable. All customers, whether they choose to switch or not, deserve to be served by the most competitive electricity supply possible and not forced to provide guaranteed returns to a utility."

Over a decade ago the New Hampshire Legislature paused the restructuring of its electric industry and allowed PSNH to retain some of its generation assets. As over half of its electric load has left PSNH service for other retail suppliers, and costs of owning the plants has increased, less customers remain to pay for these ballooning costs. NEPGA had called for passage of HB 1602 as an appropriate and timely mechanism to address the unsustainable status quo. Dolan further commented, "NEPGA looks forward to continuing its active involvement in this important policy discussion as the conversation moves from the Legislature to the PUC."

The New England Power Generators Association (NEPGA) is the trade association representing competitive electric generating companies in New England. NEPGA's members represent 80%, or nearly 27,000 megawatts, of all the available generating capacity in New England. NEPGA's mission is to promote sound energy policies which will further economic development, jobs, and balanced environmental policy. NEPGA believes that sustainable competitive markets are the best means to provide long-term reliable and affordable supplies of electricity for consumers. For more information go to www.nepga.org and follow NEPGA on Twitter @ [NEPGA](https://twitter.com/NEPGA).