

New Hampshire

MEDICAL SOCIETY

ADVOCATING FOR PHYSICIANS & PUBLIC HEALTH SINCE 1791

November 11, 2020

On behalf of the New Hampshire Medical Society, I thank the NH Emissions Commission for the opportunity to participate in this crucial and critical process to lower carbon emissions and protect the health and safety and economic security of the citizens of New Hampshire.

The monthly meetings were excellent. The invited speakers clearly laid out the link between the changing climate and the risks posed to our health and economy. The public health effects of the current level of warming are concerning but the health effects of further warming would be disastrous. We would see catastrophic flooding, worsening respiratory issues from mold, and allergies, decreased access to healthcare, heat stress, toxic algal blooms, worsening air quality, vector-borne disease, food spoilage and water contamination. All of this will lead to a large increase in healthcare costs.

If we control carbon emissions will we improve health and save lives, and also realize significant economic benefits. According to a 2011 EPA estimate for every one dollar invested we will see \$30 in benefits.

In light of the above, the New Hampshire Medical Society endorses the IPCC recommendations of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This target keeps the increase in average global temperature to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels. This goal is achievable with current technology but requires commitment, cooperation and action at the state, national and international level.

The scientific consensus is that keeping warming to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius will prevent the merely bad effects we are seeing currently from progressing into a global disaster.

Sincerely,



Michael F Dowe, M.D.
NHMS Representative