



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
**PUBLIC HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION**

4 Park Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Concord, NH 03301  
603.228.2983 | info@nhpha.org  
www.nhpha.org

Improving Health. Preventing Disease. Reducing Costs to

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Dear Senator Sherman and Emission Commission Members:

I am writing to you as president of the New Hampshire Public Health Association (NHPHA) with our concern regarding the effects of emissions on the public's health and our support for the goals of the Emission Commission. A growing body of scientific evidence points to human activities that result in emissions from the burning of fossil fuels as a primary driver of a changing climate and observed trends of increased incidence of heat and heavy precipitation that lead to direct and indirect adverse public health outcomes.

The direct public health effects associated with climate issues are a primary and immediate concern of health care and public health professionals in our state. These include respiratory illnesses, higher incidences of asthma, and other health conditions which are heightened by pollution and climate changes. Rising temperatures and changes in seasonality in New Hampshire increase exposure to ticks and mosquitoes thereby increasing the risk of contracting diseases such as Lyme disease and West Nile Virus. Excessive heat exposure also leads to dehydration and heat stroke and which can aggravate cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses and be lethal. Extreme weather leading to storms and flooding will contribute to increased outbreaks of water-borne diseases. It is critical to note that these ill-health effects will be disproportionately experienced by children, the elderly the sick, and lower income individuals. Efforts must be made to protect those most vulnerable in our state.

Public health professionals in New Hampshire are responding to the health consequences of climate change to address the hazards of rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and rising sea levels. A number of state and local agencies help communities prepare for climate events by providing heat wave warnings, air quality index alerts, water safety testing, mosquito control programs, storm warnings and coordinate detection, tracking and management of public health emergencies. Such efforts will need to expand as the health effects of climate change intensify.

After viewing the evidence presented at the commission meetings, it is clear that the scientific consensus is net zero emissions by 2050. NHPHA supports this goal.

Sincerely,

Lisa L. Bujno, MSN, APRN  
President

New Hampshire Public Health Association

2018 Affiliate of the Year of the American Public Health Association