



Dear Representative:

I am writing to urge you to vote to sustain Governor Sununu's vetoes of four bills that if passed, will harm New Hampshire employers, and slow our state's recovery from the pandemic.

HB 712 would establish a *mandatory* paid family medical leave program. BIA opposes this legislation because it did not include an "opt out" provision, forcing all private sector employers and employees to participate, and pay for, the new program. BIA believes that employers are best able to establish benefit levels to attract and retain employees, not government.

HB 1166 would make permanent the temporary COVID-19 related expansions to unemployment benefits and would allow individuals who have been called back to work but fear contracting coronavirus to collect unemployment benefits even if their employer has complied with all state and federal health and safety guidelines. The legislation requires companies with as few as 15 employees to allow their employees to take family medical leave time for COVID-19 related reasons and allows those individuals to collect unemployment benefits while taking family medical leave. BIA opposed HB 1166 because it provides an incentive for employees to collect unemployment insurance benefits rather than return to work; it forces small businesses to provide *mandatory* family leave; and because it will drain the unemployment insurance trust fund more quickly requiring employers to pay higher unemployment insurance taxes (which have already increased because of the pandemic).

SB 159 increases the cap for customer-generators to participate in net metering from 1 megawatt to 5 megawatts. BIA does not oppose raising the cap for net metering. However, we did oppose this bill because at the current tariff (or credit) that net metering customers are paid, this bill would have resulted in a cost-shift among ratepayers, increasing electricity costs for all other businesses. New Hampshire electricity costs are already among the highest in the nation.

HB 731 increases the minimum wage in New Hampshire (currently at the federal \$7.25/hour rate) to \$12/hour over a two-year period. BIA opposes this legislation because raising the minimum puts upward pressure on all wages. BIA believes that any increase in the minimum wage should take place at the federal level so employers around the country are impacted the same.

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit employers hard. Many enterprises are struggling just to remain open. These four bills would create greater hardships for employers and are counterproductive to a speedy economic recovery. Again, we ask that you vote to sustain Governor Sununu's vetoes of these bills.

Best regards,

Jim Roche
President