

March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Halifax Chamber of Commerce Energy Advisory Committee - Regional Plan Input

Dear Ms Godsoe:


The Halifax Chamber of Commerce Energy Advisory Committee has been a strong advocate and influencer of municipal energy policies for almost a decade; and continues to act as a strong voice for smart energy policies today.

While the Halifax Chamber of Commerce expects HRM to demonstrate an exemplary set of actions in areas under its direct jurisdiction and within its corporate footprint, we see a community role for HRM much beyond these limits. As a community stakeholder representing the business community, the Chamber encourages, and expects, HRM also to lead in community-related energy aspects and areas. Here HRM must exercise influence, either directly or through its aggressive advocacy efforts. The municipality must position itself as a proponent for change within, and even beyond the narrow bounds of the community. This can be accomplished by its positive example and active leadership engagement with citizens and stakeholders that have a role in HRM's energy sustainability future.

In regard to the Draft 1 RMPS of March 6, 2013: in January 2012 the Chamber presented HRM with its recommendations on the Energy Chapter in the "Regional Plan+5" (**attached**). Later in June 2012 these recommendations were discussed with a broader group of the community stakeholders including HRM's top management and found strong consensus in the community. We expect to see direct references to these recommendations in the "Regional Plan+5" draft document from the ongoing deliberations.

Please contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valerie Payn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "V".

Valerie Payn  
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Halifax Chamber of Commerce  
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