



**NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE
REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE**



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House Republican Alliance Seeks Most Qualified PUC Appointment To Lead NH Through Energy Crisis -Opposes Governor's Choice

Today the New Hampshire House Republican Alliance strongly disagreed with the decision by Governor John Lynch to nominate Chris Houpis to replace Michael Harrington as commissioner of the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission, and called on the Executive Council to reject the nomination.

Commissioner Harrington has a degree in nuclear engineering, 25 years of experience in power generation, has served four years on the House Science & Technology Committee, two of those years as Chairman of the House PUC Subcommittee. By contrast, Mr. Houpis has no experience in the power generation and transmission industry. Instead his field is sales and marketing.

“We are in an energy crisis. Energy utilities are seeking rate increases up to 60%. It baffles me why Governor Lynch would replace a known and highly qualified energy expert with someone with a sales and marketing background instead. Appointing an unqualified person to such a critical position as the Commissioner of the PUC reeks of cronyism.” said Representative Paul Mirski (R-Enfield)

“The purpose of the Public Utilities Commission is to bring technical expertise to policy issues. Commissioner Harrington, who has been point man on a number of ongoing issues, has clearly demonstrated his proficiency in dealing with issues that directly affect our energy requirements. As a legislator I need to know that, when constituents call about energy issues, I can tell them that the best qualified person is in the top position and is watching out for them. At a time when energy issues are at a critical stage, we need technical expertise, not a sales pitch,” said Representative Lee Slocum, Member of the Science, Technology and Energy Committee

The NHHRA is comprised of members of the NH House of Representatives striving for legislative support for bills supporting the NH and U.S. Constitutions and NH Republican party platform. For more information, please log onto <http://www.nhouserepublicanalliance.org>.###