



4 Park St Room 200
Concord, NH 03301

www.LWVNH.org

February 12, 2019

To: Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

From: Sally Davis, past president, League of Women Voters NH
email redacted

Re: **SB 76 prohibition of offshore oil and gas exploration**

I am representing the League of Women Voters New Hampshire, a non-partisan organization that has studied and come to consensus on US governmental environmental policies since the 1960s. In the intervening years we have recognized how interconnected energy, air and water quality and natural resources are.

The League supports SB76 as we support HJR2 because it recognizes and addresses some of those positions. We unequivocally oppose expanding oil and gas drilling and seismic testing in public waters off the US coastline, including New Hampshire's. At the hearing on HJR 2 last week, I learned so much I did not know about the Great Bay and how water circulates there. Spills from drilling and transportation of oil would stay in the bay and harm aquatic life and recreational experiences there. We are pleased to join all Leagues along the Eastern seaboard acting together in our individual state legislatures as well as at the federal level in opposing expanding oil and gas exploration and drilling off our coasts.

SB76 states our positions well and we add one more: investing in more oil and gas as sources of fuel locks us into increased carbon pollution and delays the growing NH businesses which are now expanding and successfully marketing the sustainable energy sources of solar and wind.

The League of Women Voters NH urges the Committee to recommend **OUGHT TO PASS on SB76**. This bill will be a big step forward in a 21st century energy policy and in environmental protection, both clear priorities for NH citizens state-wide.
