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BIA supports energy solutions

To the Editor: With gasoline prices hovering around \$2 a gallon, and an energy “revolution” taking place around the country, why are New Hampshire consumers and businesses paying a 50 percent premium for the price of electricity?

The answer is economics 101. It's all about supply and demand.

Today, natural gas generators make up around 50 percent of New England electrical generating capacity. But in February of last winter, ISO New England reports that gas met only 17 percent of our electrical supply. That's because there wasn't enough gas to meet the needs of the gas-powered generation plants. They were sitting idle.

There is no question that we need action to address the critical issue of energy supply. We need more gas pipeline capacity. We need more diverse sources of energy, such as Canadian hydro, so we don't need to rely so much on gas.

Increased conservation and small-scale renewables also have a role to play, but the challenge is much bigger than can be addressed by these alone.

Our energy infrastructure is simply not up to the demands of our consumers, businesses and economy.

That's why New Hampshire's business community is raising its voice. As Chairwoman of the New Hampshire Business and Industry Association, we encourage our political leaders to step forward with real solutions.

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