



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
Executive Council

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March 28, 2025

Charles Arlinghaus
Commissioner
New Hampshire Department of Administrative Services
25 Capitol Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Commissioner Arlinghaus,

We write today to extend our sincere gratitude for your steadfast commitment to reviewing and addressing the government hurdles that have long impacted the efficiency and effectiveness of public construction projects across New Hampshire. Your leadership at the Department of Administrative Services has proven vital in tackling these challenges, and we are particularly encouraged by your efforts to foster a more collaborative relationship between the state and the contracting community—a priority that resonates deeply with the concerns raised by the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) and the Associated General Contractors (AGC).

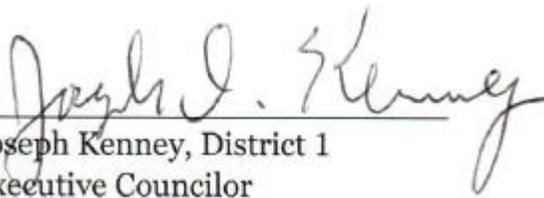
The construction industry plays an indispensable role in our state's growth and prosperity, employing thousands of Granite Staters and delivering the infrastructure that supports our communities. However, as highlighted in that attached recent proposal from ABC and feedback from AGC, contractors have faced persistent obstacles in the public contracting process—delays in issuing Notices to Proceed, slow responses to change orders and payment applications, and unclear expectations around scope and design responsibilities. These inefficiencies not only increase costs and disrupt project timelines but also place an undue burden on smaller contractors and subcontractors, who are less equipped to weather such uncertainties. Your proactive approach to identifying and addressing these issues has not gone unnoticed, and we commend you for taking them seriously.

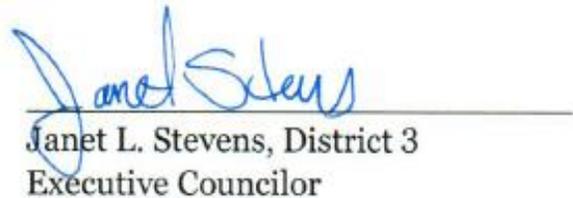
We are especially appreciative of your dedication to streamlining administrative processes within your purview. By prioritizing the review of construction contracts and working to expedite their approval through the Governor and Council process, you are helping to reduce the delays that have frustrated contractors and driven up project costs. We ask that you continue your willingness to engage directly with these industry stakeholders, listen to their concerns, and seek practical solutions. This reflects the kind of leadership that strengthens trust between the state and the private sector. This collaborative spirit is a cornerstone of what makes New Hampshire's government effective, and your efforts are setting a strong example in that regard.

Moreover, your focus on fostering a predictable and competitive contracting environment aligns closely with our shared objectives as Executive Councilors. We believe that by addressing the specific issues outlined by ABC—such as ensuring Notices to Proceed are issued in a timely manner after a bid opening, minimizing unnecessary rebidding, and responding to change orders and payment applications in a timely manner—the state can encourage greater participation from a diverse range of contractors. This, in turn, will enhance competition, reduce the burden on taxpayers, and lead to better outcomes for public construction projects. Your role in advancing these goals is critical, and we are grateful for the energy and insight you bring to this work.

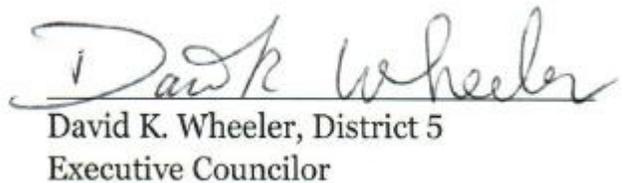
Thank you for your continued service to the people of New Hampshire and for your commitment to improving the state’s public contracting processes. We ask that you kindly keep us updated on your engagement and reform efforts here and we stand ready to support your efforts as you collaborate with industry partners and state agencies to implement meaningful reforms. Please do not hesitate to call on us as you move forward in addressing these challenges and building on the progress already made. We look forward to seeing the positive impact of your leadership in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,


Joseph Kenney, District 1
Executive Councilor


Janet L. Stevens, District 3
Executive Councilor


John Stephen, District 4
Executive Councilor


David K. Wheeler, District 5
Executive Councilor