



## Great advocacy takes a great team

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*By Executive Director Dave White*

Our voice is being heard! I recently travelled to Washington, DC with a group of NEPPA members as part of the APPA's Legislative Rally. We met with elected officials, aides, and FERC commissioners. I can state unequivocally, as someone with eight years of lobbying experience and over fifteen years in professional politics, that NEPPA has one of the best advocacy efforts going.

What does it take to be successful advocates? The simple answer is that it takes a great team. It takes professional lobbyists who understand our issues, have an impeccable reputation with policymakers, and who can carry our message to the right decision makers. It takes members who are both articulate and passionate and willing to commit their time and energy to our efforts. It takes time to build relationships and it takes a staff dedicated to making sure that things run smoothly. There is no doubt in my mind that NEPPA has all of those things.

While we were in DC I was able to see our advocacy team in action. First, Mike Kirkwood does a simply fantastic job chairing our Legislative Committee and deserves our praise and appreciation for his work. Second, we are very fortunate to have Elizabeth Kelsey and the entire team at Morgen Maguire working on our behalf. Whether it's drafting issue briefs, scheduling appointments, or making sure that we're represented at countless hearings and meetings, Elizabeth can always be relied upon to outperform expectations. Finally, the NEPPA members who attended the rally were amazing. I was continuously impressed by their ability to not only explain incredibly complex issues, but to also be sure to establish and build upon connections with their audiences. That relationship building is one of the most challenging and important parts of advocacy, and the NEPPA team has it down cold.

Are we succeeding? Rep. Joe Kennedy III (D-MA) has successfully pushed legislation in the House, the "Fair RATES Act" (see "Legislative Update" below) and Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA) is pushing for passage in the Senate. Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) is continuing to work with our members on a number of issues, as is Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT). Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (R-RI) [took to Twitter to let everyone know he was meeting with NEPPA](#), while Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) followed up on earlier criticisms of FERC with a direct request for a more detailed briefing on forward capacity markets. Success in advocacy is not always easy to measure, but it certainly looks a lot like the accomplishments we've achieved so far this year.

NEPPA will continue to work hard to ensure that our voice is heard in Washington. In addition to the individuals listed above, we also need to thank David Tuohey (MMWEC), Vin Raguccio (ENE), Brian Forshaw (CMEEC), Judy Gove (NH Electric Coop) and Abbey Reller (Morgen Maguire) for all of their efforts in coordinating our visits in DC. Finally, all of NEPPA owes thanks to the following people who took time out of their busy schedules to speak on our behalf: Mike Kirkwood; Al Palmisciano; Jackie Crowley; Jay Moynihan; Brian Forshaw; John Tzimirangas; Vin Raguccio; Judy Gove; Paul Heanue; Bill Bottiggi; Ken Stone; Jim Regan; Sean Hamilton; Mark Kelly; Mike Cloutier; Dan Folding; Jeff Cady; David Tuohey; Ron Decurzio; John Bilda; David Mullet; and Calvin Ames. These folks did a great job and we should all look forward to continued success in the future.

