

**For Immediate Release**

**March 29, 2011**

**Contact: Steve Boucher, NHBSR Board of Directors, 271-2341**

## **New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility Executive Director Announces Departure**

CONCORD - Executive Director Molly Hodgson Smith announced today that she is leaving her leadership role at New Hampshire Businesses for Social Responsibility (NHBSR). Hodgson Smith, whose extensive professional background includes over 15 years of nonprofit leadership, is leaving after six years at NHBSR.

“There comes a time in every organization for change and this will present NHBSR with the opportunity to write the next chapter in its evolution” Hodgson Smith said. She has accepted the position of Executive Director for the Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce and will stay at NHBSR through the end of April.

“Molly joined the organization in 2005 at a crucial time in our history,” NHBSR co-chair Bonnie Kurylo noted. “The board had decided to elevate the level of programs and services we offered to our members. Molly set us on a journey to help this diverse and well respected membership come together to learn, mentor, network and promote their Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) practices.”

Under Hodgson Smith’s leadership, NHBSR has experienced impressive growth in membership, grant procurement and programming. She has taken NHBSR from a small group of like minded business leaders with a shared philosophy into a diverse community of well-respected companies and organizations that come together to promote sustainability and corporate responsibility in New Hampshire.

“The value and influence of NHBSR comes from its members and the collective wealth of experience and breath of knowledge they help create,” said Erik Barstow, Attorney at Wiggin & Nourie and Co-Chair of the NHBSR Board. “Under Molly's leadership NHBSR has grown into a premiere CSR organization for fostering a collaborative environment for its members.”

Hodgson Smith started with NHBSR part time and grew the organization and her position. NHBSR underwent a comprehensive journey under Hodgson Smith’s leadership, of developing a strategic plan that outlines the organization’s core values, strategic goals, implementation strategies and desired outcomes from its work. In addition to this road map for its future, Hodgson Smith created infrastructure to connect all aspects of NHBSR from the strategic plan to its organizational development, operational plan and budget. NHBSR also saw increased member engagement under Hodgson Smith’s leadership.

NHBSR is a member-driven organization that promotes socially and environmentally responsible business practices which lead to greater financial profit and improved overall company and community sustainability. NHBSR believes that people, principles and profits are inseparably linked. NHBSR members have access to the brightest and most innovative business minds and best practices.

“It’s been an honor and a pleasure to have worked with NHBSR’s extraordinary board, staff and members during the past six three years,” said Hodgson Smith. “Together we’ve made great strides

in growing this outstanding organization and evolving NHBSR into the trusted 'go to' educational resource on corporate social responsibility (CSR), helping New Hampshire companies and organizations put CSR theory and best practices to work. I look forward to continuing to be a member of the NHBSR family and spreading the good word about its valuable CSR tools, research and leadership."

Hodgson Smith will assist the NHBSR board to execute its succession plan.

"NHBSR is fully prepared to implement a seamless executive transition" Hodgson Smith said.

A search for an Executive Director will begin June 2011. Please no phone calls or resume submissions to the organization until the formal announcement of the position opening.

**-END-**