

My name is Rick Samson from Stewartstown N. H. My wife and I were born, raised, and educated in Lancaster, 10 miles south of Groveton. We have raised 3 children in N H and lived in our state for all but 5 years. Those 5 years were in Norfolk, Virginia while in the U S Navy from 1964 to 1969.

I am here this evening to point out several facts and to bring attention to several other points of interest in this proposed project. I respectfully ask those here in attendance this evening to not only give very careful consideration to this issue, but to study, ask and demand that questions raised be truthfully, factually, and fully answered.

In the past approximately 18 months, I have traveled from Colebrook to Keene to Hampton and everywhere in between to attend meetings, informational seminars, and hearings and to testify, all at my own expense.

The most important point I have learned from all of this is that most of the elected officials in our county and state government think, and I emphasize, think, they know what is best for us, the residents and taxpayers. They repeatedly ignore the voice of the voters and do their own thing.

I respectfully ask that we, the people, are not only heard, but that our wishes be understood and adhered to.

I firmly believe that any elected official that is running for re-election be defeated and removed from office. I intend to show here this evening by past examples just what is at stake by this project and exactly who will benefit from it.

As a lifelong Republican I am not only ashamed of the Republican Party, but also I am extremely ashamed of the Democratic Party and NH's governor, John Lynch. Almost all of these officials have neglected our basic rights and fundamental needs. For any of them to take credit for simple, frivolous programs and projects and to try and buy votes with grants and money is only self-serving. Wasting our tax dollars on ridiculous issues such as gay rights, impeaching the president and other illegal, unnecessary, and unrelated items is an insult to the residents of this state.

How many of the people involved in this wind power project are residents of our state? Where do these lawyers come from that are representing this project? Compare these people to a majority of NH elected officials in our state and you will find that many were from out of state and educated out of state. This is not to say that they do not cherish our state and its way of life. There have been some outstanding non-natives that have been a positive contributor to our state, they also try to maintain our way of life.

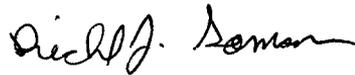
The Portland natural gas pipeline is a perfect example of what can happen when outside interests take control of your elected officials and your resources. We were told it was cheap fuel for Wausau Papers, Groveton Paperboard and the Berlin mills. Three of the mills are now closed. The gas is being shipped through Coos County; we only get the property taxes on the facilities and realize no cost benefit. The DC power transmission line in Vermont is another example of this.

Our county commissioners and delegation are being sold a similar bill of goods from clean energy speculators who now hold approximately 99% of the transmission rights for this project. How did this happen? The elected representatives as usual think they know what is best. Be assured, it ~~is~~^{isn't} not in our best interests.

It would only benefit Coos County if power were kept local. If the power is shipped elsewhere, it is not in our best interest at all. It will not reduce our costs or benefit us.

Ask the questions, demand the answers, and then, and only then, let us make the right decision.

Respectfully,



Richard J. Samson