



Town of Sugar Hill

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September 21, 2015

To: Governor Maggie Hassan
Attorney David Wiesner, SEC
Chairman, Martin Honigberg, SEC
Jane Murray, DES
Executive Councilor Joseph Kenney
Representative Carol McGuire, Chairman – JLCAR

The town of Sugar Hill supports the recommendations from the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and New Hampshire Audubon regarding their recommendations for reforming the SEC rules.

The SEC seems to be ignoring the reforms that were made by many residents throughout the state during the SEC rule making hearings. These sessions were specifically designed to improve the SEC rules in ways that would enable citizens and municipalities to be heard and to make industry more answerable to the communities and individuals their projects would impact.

We would like to add the town of Sugar Hill as a supporter of the recommendations submitted on 7/23/15 and request that the SEC consider these suggestions seriously.

NH RSA 162-H;16.IV(e) requires the SEC to make a finding relative to the “public interest”, and section 301.01(h)(6) of the proposed rules includes a requirement that the application include “information describing how the proposed facility will be consistent with the public interest”.

However, there are no draft criteria for addressing this finding. The suggestions by the three environmental organizations suggest language to remedy that omission.

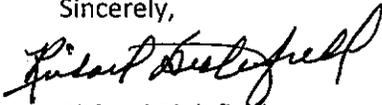
In determining whether a proposed energy facility will be in the public interest, the committee shall consider:

- a) **Whether the net environmental effect of the facility, considering both beneficial and adverse effects, serve the public interest.**
- b) **Whether the net economic effects of the facility, including but not limited to costs and benefits to energy consumers, property owners, state and local tax revenues, employment opportunities, and local and regional economies, serve the public interest.**
- c) **Whether construction and operation of the facility will be consistent with federal, regional, state, and local policies.**

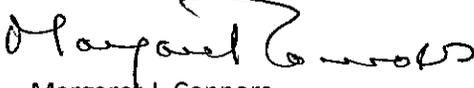
- d) Whether the facility as proposed is consistent with master plans and land use regulations of affected municipalities pertaining to (i) natural, historic, scenic, cultural, resources and (ii) public health and safety, air quality, economic development, and energy resources.
- e) Such additional public interest criteria as may be deemed pertinent by the committee.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

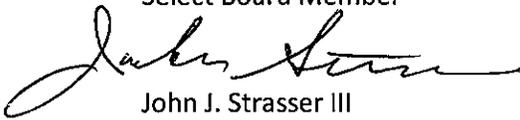
Sincerely,



Richard Bielefield
Select Board Chair



Margaret J. Connors
Select Board Member



John J. Strasser III
Select Board Member