



May 26, 2016

Mr. Martin Honigberg, Chairman
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
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Concord, NH 03301

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RE: GNCC opposed to the proposed extended SEC schedule for Northern Pass Project

Dear Chairman Honigberg,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce and our 600+ members, I write today to express our opposition to the proposed extension to the SEC review process for the Northern Pass project.

Our Chamber has been a strong supporter of this project since its inception. We and our members recognize that high energy costs in New Hampshire and our region are a barrier to business growth and the resulting economic development our state needs to thrive. We are strongly in favor of projects which will address the long-term energy needs of our state and allow us to attract and retain the businesses whose economic vitality supports the quality of life and prosperity we all want here.

The decision of the SEC to add a further delay to a proposed project in the works since 2011 puts an unnecessary roadblock in the approval process.

We oppose the decision by the SEC to ignore the approval process schedule reviewed and extended by the legislature just two years ago. The application process for this project was already well underway as the legislature considered and approved the extension from 9 months to 12 months for assessing SEC application. Those parties now supporting overturning that 12 month schedule were in support of it as the legislature considered the extension. To oppose it now speaks simply of an attempt by Northern Pass opponents to have delaying game tactics replace merit as the determining factor in the approval of this project.

Our energy needs and the economic future of our state and our businesses are simply too important for games like this.

If the SEC does not reconsider its decision in this case, it is setting a precedent for future energy infrastructure projects of this nature, one that says established procedures cannot be relied upon here in New Hampshire. Surely that is not the message anyone, regardless of their position on this one project, wished to tell the world.

We respectfully request that the SEC reconsider their decision and use the schedule established by the legislature for the approval process of Northern Pass.

Sincerely,



Tracy S. Hatch
President and CEO

