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October 12, 2015

Representative Carol McGuire, Chairman
Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules
25 Capitol Street, Room 219
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Chairman McGuire,

The Easton Select board is writing to express concern over recent comments made by Commissioner Scott, a member of both the Public Utilities Commission and the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC). In his comments, he indicated that the SEC could possibly act as a statewide planning and zoning board and would have authority to effectively preempt local planning and zoning ordinances, master plans, etc.

This is a troubling statement to us, and our town.

If this were to pass, where would that leave the legality of NH RSA 673.1 and 674.2, that states that the duty of the local planning board is to prepare and amend as necessary a master plan to guide the development of a municipality?

It is our feeling that in granting permits for all large energy projects in the State of New Hampshire, careful attention should be paid not only to NH State RSAs, but also to the interests and desires of the residents within the towns that are affected.

Respectfully submitted,

Easton Select Board

Cc: Governor Maggie Hassan
Attorney David Wiesner
Chairman Martin Honigberg
Jane Murray
Executive Councilor Joseph Kenney