
From: Vicky Ballentine <bonniemuffin2000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 02, 2011 9:53 PM
To: Burack, Thomas
Subject: Northern Pass

Thomas Burack , Chair
Department of Environmental Services

Dear Thomas,

I love the way of life we enjoy in the Great North Woods. I would like to thank Northern Pass for reminding me how much I love living up here . It's frustrating making it through one of our long cold winters. It isn't easy, but , when I thought I might loose it : I realized how much I love it. I live in a home that is over 200 years old. We purchased an out door wood furnace because the cost of fuel is so high and wood is renewable. It is similar to harvesting produce only you don't have to plant them they grow back on their own. It takes us over 20 cord a year that is a lot of trees. Plus, on the really cold nights to keep the house above 40 degrees we ran the gas furnace and the kerosene one also . It is expensive to live in the North Country ! But it is worth it !

We also love to hike. I am at awe of the beauty of the Great Northern Woods. That is why we choose to raise a family up here. I am a RN and would make close to twice as much working south of the Notches. I would make over twice has much in Mass or Conn. I work as a nurse so my husband can afford to work as a farmer. My grandfather farmed this same land . He had to work at construction so he could afford to keep the farm. He and the family got to live all over the USA but he was able to retire up here . It is where his heart always lived. We live in Dalton but it is true of all the land up here. We have a lot of disadvantages living in the country and the raising gas prices only make it worse. We need to fight for our one real advantage. Our beautiful wood lands and country side.

My husband was born a flatlander and is now a farmer. And has been welcomed and accepted by the locals. We love the beauty of the out doors, working the soil . Smelling the fresh air. Listening to the birds sing has you plant and harvest and plant again. We have delicious produce growing in the High Tunnels already and have seedlings growing inside. I love Spring! We look forward to selling at Farmer's Market in Lancaster and enjoying the delicious produce ourselves.

Everyone who chooses to stay or move back to the north country or visits knows why I love it so much. If the bottom line were the most important thing to us we would never choose to live here . But we do have to make a living . COOS county is the poorest in the State and we always make the top ten of the poorest in the entire USA. In the last few years we lost over 1000 permanent jobs. Our most reliable job base now is the tourist industry which stays strong for the same reason I love living up here. We need to keep our way of life not just because we love it but we need it to survive ! People visit to get away from the city .

Just the threat of the Northern Pass project made my land worthless to anyone who wants to move up from the city. No one wants to move to the country , or have a second home to get away from the city and have Huge Dangerous Noisy Towers near their home. They Buzzz loudly . It is outdated technology. Northern Pass will not help our tax base it will only make our land worthless. It will make a huge scar through our Great Northern Woods no matter where or how it goes through .

Northern Pass wants to bring electricity through the Great Northern Woods. There isn't a need it is only Greed. NH already makes more electricity than we need. But, we pay some of the highest rates for electricity here in Coos county compared to the rest of the US; and NH sells almost half of its voltage to someone else. Having the Towers will not make our bills any cheaper. And even if it did ; it wouldn't be worth loosing the beauty of our Great Northern Woods .

We need permanent locally created jobs that will be here for years not jobs that will only last for a few years while the towers go up . The Northern Pass project will only harm Coos county . We would rather produce and sell our own electricity to Southern New England which would help us a lot more than allowing a Foreign Company to make a permanent scar through our beautiful country side for cheap electricity which will only help them (the powerful companies) .

We need to keep our way of life in order to survive . The Northern Pass projects needs to be stopped. If they want to bring cheap electricity through to Southern New England they will have to find another way and STAY out of NH.

Thank you

Vicky

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