



October 19, 2015

Ms. Pamela G. Monroe, Administrator
NH Site Evaluation Committee
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Ms. Monroe:

The Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce is the largest chamber in the state, representing 900 businesses from across southern New Hampshire. The Chamber's Board of Directors first endorsed the Northern Pass project in 2012 and reaffirmed its position in September after reviewing the details of the Forward NH plan.

As Northern Pass moves into the formal Site Evaluation Committee process, we are writing to express the Chamber's strong support for the project. In reviewing the Northern Pass project and Forward NH plan, the Chamber Board of Directors recognized the statewide economic benefits of the project as well as the impact of accessing a new, large source of hydroelectric energy that can help stabilize our region's energy market.

New Hampshire faces a growing crisis around the cost of electricity. The business community, in particular, is greatly impacted by this issue and it threatens our ability to grow our economy and create jobs. While demand for energy increases, the region has an increasing numbers of older generating plants coming off line, representing a loss of thousands of megawatts of electricity. This combined with our increasing reliance on gas powered generation leaves us vulnerable to price spikes due to an inadequate supply of gas into our region. While there is no single solution to this challenge, we know that we must increase the supply and diversity of energy into New Hampshire and New England.

We believe Northern Pass plan will help address this challenge in several ways. First, bringing 1,000 megawatts of new energy into the region will help drive down the cost of electricity. New Hampshire customers will save an estimated \$80 million in energy costs simply as a result of the increase in supply. Second, a power purchase agreement between Eversource and Hydro

Quebec guarantees that New Hampshire customers will receive the lowest price for the power. Third, increasing the supply of clean hydro power into the region helps diversify our overall energy supply, which makes us less susceptible to the volatility we've seen in the energy markets over the last few years.

It clear that Eversource has listened to the concerns of New Hampshire and worked to reengineer and address many of the issues that had been raised with earlier versions of their plan. Their commitment to bury 60 miles of line, including all through the White Mountain region, goes a long way to address environmental and view shed concerns. In addition, the power purchase agreement and economic development fund make clear that there are significant, tangible benefits for New Hampshire.

We urge the SEC to provide a careful yet expeditious review of the project.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Skelton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Skelton
President and CEO
Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce

CC: Governor Maggie Hassan
Senator Jeanne Shaheen
Senator Kelly Ayotte
Rep. Frank Guinta
Rep. Annie Kuster
Senate President Chuck Morse
Senate Majority Leader Jeb Bradley