

City of Berlin, NH

City Council of the City of Berlin



December 7, 2015

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

Dear Ms. Monroe:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the City Council of the City of Berlin as express support for the Northern Pass project. The City Council voted unanimously on December 7, 2015 to provide this letter of support.

Coos County, its residents and communities are in need of economic development projects which expand the tax base. For decades, the average age of the Coos County resident has increased and the overall population has decreased. This has occurred during a time that the paper industry as well as other notable industries and employers have declined. Northern Pass is a utility project that will provide much needed tax revenue to the County and communities through which it passes. In addition, it will provide an economic stimulus through the construction jobs required to build the project.

Berlin's renewable energy portfolio includes both big and small elements. The Northern Forest Investment Zone Program from 2013 installed 40 wood pellet boilers in commercial and residential buildings. The City is home to electricity generation from wind, biomass and hydro facilities. The City is in support of bringing hydro-generated electricity into New England from Canada, in turn offsetting power generation that may otherwise occur through fossil fuel consumption and carbon emissions that negatively affect us locally and globally.

From the City's perspective, the project developers have worked diligently to address concerns regarding aesthetic issues created by overhead powerlines. We understand that many of the concerns have been mitigated, and we encourage Northern Pass and the SEC to continue to work with affected communities to create a final product that results in the anticipated economic and environmental benefits while minimizing negative effects to the landscape. The City appreciates the work of the Site Evaluation Committee in ensuring that environmental standards are met in the progress of the project. We are confident that the public interest will be both safeguarded and served as the project advances.

Sincerely,

Paul Gronier, Mayor

Michael Gentili, City Councilor

Michael Rozek, City Councilor

Russell A. Otis, City Councilor

Denise Morgan Allain, City Councilor

Roland Theberge, City Councilor

Lucie Remillard, City Councilor

Peter Higbee, City Councilor

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