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CITY OF FRANKLIN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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December 18, 2015

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

RE: City of Franklin Supports Proposed Northern Pass Project

Dear Ms. Monroe,

The City of Franklin wishes to pen this letter of support for the Northern Pass project for your consideration. Over the course of several years Franklin has articulated support for this project both verbally and written. This week the council yet again took a vote of unanimous support for project.

The socioeconomic impacts of this proposed project for not only the City of Franklin but also the State of NH are momentous. This 1.6 Billion dollar (TAXABLE) project will give communities a revenue boost at a time when we are fighting to come out of one the biggest recessions in recent memory. Communities & families have faced economic hardships and struggles across the state. Communities have deferred funding necessary projects because we simply can't afford it and neither can the taxpayers who are footing the bill.

The City of Franklin, which was once a vibrant mill town, has a population were over half of our students are eligible for free or reduced lunch. Over half!!! 1 out of every 2 children in this community is living at or below poverty level. That is our reality.

The City of Franklin has an overall tax base of just over \$524 million and this project would add another approximately \$394 million to the tax base (that's more than half of our current taxable assessed value) and would result in approximately 5 million dollars of new tax revenue to the city of Franklin. But it doesn't stop there:

- Additional Tax Benefits: Estimated Tax Benefits are not only for Franklin but several other towns & cities across NH as well counties and the state wide education funding system. At a time when funding education for children across New Hampshire is becoming more and more difficult-this project would generate over 7 million dollars directly to the State of NH education funding system.
- Tax revenue without impacting our local services: Often times when a project comes to town there is tax revenue but there is also an offsetting expense to the municipality. Once the lines and the facility are built there really is, for most communities, no impact to community services. Therefore, little to no increased costs to provide services to a project like this.

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- Jobs!!!! Throughout the state during the construction period (expected to last several years) 1,100-1,300 jobs are expected to be created. Even though these jobs are temporary in nature it would certainly be a boost to NH's economy and impact unemployment rates as we continue to pull ourselves out of the recession. In Franklin alone there is expected to be 300-380 jobs.
- Economic spin off: Jobs mean people! This project would bring workers to our towns for the entire construction time period of approximately 3 years. People who need lunch, or might need to do a little shopping before or after work and maybe even some who are looking for a place to stay or a permanent home. This temporary boost to our local businesses is just what we need! A Temporary boost certainly isn't enough to base a long term business on. However, our businesses who have been struggling through the recession might be able to enjoy the benefits of increased revenue at their location- and put in that new floor that they have been putting off or pay down some expenses they have been floating through tough times. Whatever the case might be and for however temporary 1, 2, or 3 years...even the slightest boost to our businesses is a welcome boost!
- Renewable Energy: this project would provide enough renewable energy to power 1 million homes in New England. As each community discusses how to "go green" and how to reduce our carbon footprint this project must be part of that discussion. It will provide low carbon energy and it goes a long ways towards addressing New Hampshire's clean energy goals. Hydro power ranks as one of the lowest emission generating options per kilowatt hour produced.
- HydroQuebec (Northern Pass) pay for the project (ENTIRELY): Many utility companies build a project and then spread the cost of building that project out over the rate users in their utility bill! This project is "participant pays" which means HydroQuebec is entirely footing the cost of building the project. That is good news for the rate payer.

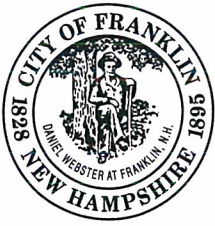
In reality, we all like to use our cell phones but too often we don't want the cell tower in our communities (our backyard)- but one can't function without the other. The same goes for projects like this. We all want to reduce our carbon foot print and have affordable energy to run our homes/business-- so we need projects like this to get us there.

This project is vital to the City of Franklin in terms of future tax revenue but hopefully my talking points illustrate that there are also many significant statewide and regional benefits to the project that shouldn't be overlooked.

On behalf of the Mayor, City Council, and City Manger- we are thankful for the opportunity to express our support for this project. It is our sincere hope that this project becomes a reality. It is easy to "sell fear"! People are afraid of change but change is not only inevitable it is necessary. This project will benefit the City of Franklin, The State of New Hampshire and the New England region for decades to come. If we can be of assistance or answer any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.
Sincerely,

City of Franklin Mayor, City Councilors & City Manager

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CITY OF FRANKLIN
DECEMBER 14, 2015 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Subject: City of Franklin Supports Proposed Northern Pass Project

MOTION: *Councilor Giunta moved that the Franklin City Council unanimously supports the Northern Pass Transmission project and the Council authorizes the City Manager to write a letter of support enumerating the many benefits of the project. The letter is to be sent to the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee with specific reference to the Franklin City Council's unanimous support and Councilor Boyd seconded.*

All in favor; motion passes unanimously.

Signatures:

Mayor Kenneth Merrifield




Councilor Ted Starkweather



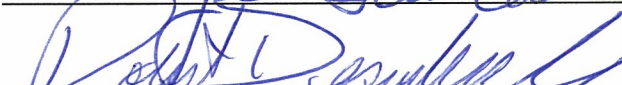
Councilor George Dzujna



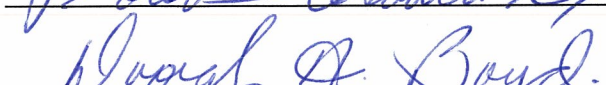
Councilor Tony Giunta




Councilor Robert Desrochers, Sr.



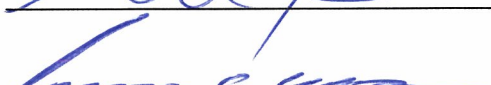
Councilor Douglas Boyd



Councilor Glen Feener



Councilor James Wells



Councilor Scott Clarenbach

absent

Councilor Steve Barton



City Manager Elizabeth Dragon

