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To: Monroe, Pamela
Subject: Northern Pass written testimony, for the record

From the Hon. Leigh A. Webb, former State Representative, Merrimack Dist. 3:

Although I have testified and submitted written statements in the past, I want to once again reiterate the following points, taking into account this issue is *not* just about a few communities benefiting from the completion of Northern Pass, but of the entire region benefiting from an intelligent and far-sighted policy now to insure that when the consumer in NH pushes the button on the air conditioner on the hottest day of the summer, or the electric space heater when the temps are below zero, that power be readily available at peak times as well as all year long when it is mostly taken for granted.

Those who oppose Northern Pass should consider the following: the demand for electrical power *will not diminish*, while the capacity for generation of that electricity continues to do so. Plants are closing down, or are relying on out-dated and environmentally detrimental technology, at *great cost* to the NH rate payer. Look no further than to the Bow plant, with its controversial scrubber, with a price tag of almost \$500 million, close to half the cost of Northern Pass.

Opponents also need to consider that if not towers as conduits of the power needed to assure the region's consumer requirements, then a view-shed dotted with wind turbines or fields of glinting solar panels, or an incredibly expensive nuclear power plant in someone's "backyard". The short-sighted view that making Northern Pass cost-prohibitive by forcing all the lines to be buried, or injecting the nebulous and impossible-to-objectively-define concept of "aesthetics," will cause the project to disappear, is quite simply denying that an environmentally friendly and reasonable approach to sustainable electrical power is available *now* and must be adopted in NH.

Northern Pass offers an opportunity to assure access to needed power now, and for generations to come.