

SEC Testimony on proposed Northern Pass project

March 14, 2016

Margo Connors, Select Board, Town of Sugar Hill

Good Evening Committee Members, my name is Margo Connors. I am a Select Board member and Conservation Commission member in the town of Sugar Hill. I am here to speak for my community of full time and part time residents – approximately 1,000 people, a community that voted unanimously against the proposed Northern Pass project in 2011.

The plan in the application that you are considering proposes burial of the line through Sugar Hill. Despite the positive spin that the applicant has put on this project, through its PR, and its glossy print and television advertising, we are not persuaded. We thought it was a bad idea in 2011 and we still hold this to be true today. We are steadfast.

We are not persuaded by the promise of tax revenues that will quickly depreciate or be litigated for abatement, by the additional power, since the state generates more than it needs now, or by the false promise of local jobs only if the lines are built above-ground, since trained technicians should be able to repair both above and underground wires.

Northern Pass will damage our natural landscapes, our historic sites, our natural resources, and our public and private properties. It is a project based not on the public good, but on the greed of a for-profit company.

The beauty of our state is one of its most important assets. It is why people come here to live and visit. We see no reason for a private company to degrade this asset.

We stand with the thousands of others in the state, and most of the 31 communities directly affected by the proposal, who urge you to reject this application. We ask that you make a decision that best serves the people of New Hampshire. We can do better.

Sugar Hill is part of the North Country of New Hampshire. We stand with our community of towns to oppose the Northern Pass project unless it is buried along existing state-owned transportation corridors.

(It is also our sincere hope that the SEC takes the time to get out of the bus during site visits to fully grasp the impact of towers on view sheds. We do not understand how, in Bethlehem for example, they were able to fully ascertain the detriment of towers on the view from the Rocks Estate. Thank you.)