

March 15, 2016

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

**RE: PLEASE SUPPORT THE NORTHERN PASS PROJECT**

Dear Ms. Monroe & Members of the NH Site Evaluation Committee:

I'm writing to express my strong support for the Northern Pass project and hope it gains approval to be constructed to become operational.

I'm a lifelong NH resident, and have resided in Manchester for the past 16 years. I'm a shareholder in a NH-based commercial real estate services firm; an industry I've worked in for the past 25 years. To disclose, I've been a vendor for a some Eversource-owned real estate disposition projects over the years including some active listings presently.

In my capacity as a commercial Realtor on the frontline of economic development efforts in NH, I can attest to the significant disadvantage NH (and the New England region in general) has due to skyrocketing energy costs – especially electricity costs. Other than pockets of smart manufacturing, our State's manufacturing industry remains depressed. The last decade of brokerage has been filled with the sale of many vacant manufacturing facilities that formerly employed many thousands of workers repurposed into other uses.

My firm, Colliers International | New Hampshire, was recently working with a Belgium company, Verstraete ([www.verstraete-impl.com](http://www.verstraete-impl.com)), in seeking to acquire industrial land to develop a 100,000+ SF state of the art manufacturing plant with hundreds of employees to be hired. A leader in mould labeling, Verstraete decided to invest in Tennessee instead. According to an email from Max Uyttebrouck, Verstraete's Deployment Project Manager, energy cost is twice as high in NH as in TN – a critical site criterion that factored into its decision not to choose NH for its plant operation.

And there are plenty more examples that I've run into over the years wherein NH was deemed uncompetitive due to high energy costs.

I'm discouraged when I hear opponents contend that the electricity supplied by Northern Pass will be used primarily in Southern New England; thus, the project should be opposed. Frankly, NH's economy is highly dependent on the regional economy. If MA and CT et al suffer, so does NH.

To boot, NH's communities would receive substantial property tax revenue from Northern Pass, the project would create enormous construction job base, and our region would become less reliant on

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fossil fuels for electricity generation. Maybe it's due to living in a city and everything *is in my backyard*, but I'm much less concern about the perceived negative aesthetics of power lines. I'd much rather see transmission lines coming from clean & green, Canadian hydro power than energy produced from coal plants or importing oil from the middle east.

Folks, I realize this project has generated tremendous public comment. For that reason alone, I sincerely thank you for considering my personal thoughts on Northern Pass. Please count me as a strong supporter of this project.

Respectfully yours,



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