

From: Representative Leon H Rideout [<mailto:rideout4rep@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2016 9:06 PM  
To: Monroe, Pamela  
Subject: Forward NHFund

To: Pamela Monroe, NHSEC  
From Representative Leon H Rideout COOS7

I represent the residents of Carroll, Dalton, Dummer, Jefferson, Kilkenny, Lancaster, Milan, Northumberland, Randolph, Stark and Whitefield- I have heard from many of my constituents and there is passionate debate on the pros and cons of the project. You have heard from many also over many meetings and months. Both sides are passionate in their beliefs and it now fall on to you to make a decision.

I felt it important to add that it is my belief that if the decision is for the project to go forward how critical the Forward NH Fund would be in that process. The North Country is a beautiful region with many tough and resilient people. But the area has been battered by a poor economy for the last decade. We have a shrinking and aging population base which has taken a toll on communities with increased crime and a devastating surge in drug addiction. Many of the most talented youth need to leave the area to find meaningful employment.

One of the first glimmers of hope is the Proposed Balsams project which could well be the spring board of a economic boom for the area.

Those are a few of the reason that if the decision is to proceed I support the Forward New Hampshire Fund based in the current Forward New Hampshire Plan that would assure that a 100 million or more of the fund will go to the North Country to help revitalize the region and provide economics opportunities for businesses and our future generations. I will work with all parties to create a plan that works for all.

Sincerely  
Rep Leon H Rideout  
COOS7