

To Whom it may Concern

April 1, 2016

I live in Whitefield and have represented the North Country for seventeen years. In addition to my work at the statehouse, I served 45 years in law enforcement. I see firsthand what economic malaise in the North Country has wrought. High unemployment, poverty and a rise in social problems like our drug addiction epidemic.

That's why my first priority is fighting for initiatives that help create jobs and economic prosperity. I am also very concerned about New Hampshire's very high costs for power, among the most expensive in America. I believe expensive electricity is one of the primary reasons New Hampshire has great difficulty attracting new businesses and convincing existing ones to remain and expand.

The restoration of the Balsams is critically important towards stimulating our North Country economy. So is attracting investment beyond the Balsams. As I have learned more about Northern Pass' \$200 million 'Forward NH Fund,' I have concluded this is an excellent opportunity to secure more financial support for economic development, particularly in tourism. The fund could also help non-profits and even municipalities with infrastructure projects.

While problems remain to be settled, the economic benefits to the Balsams and other businesses from the proposed transmission line will be significant. Almost three thousand construction jobs between the Balsams and Northern Pass is impressive. The real long-term opportunity for us is the investment from the 'Forward NH Fund' as part of the Forward NH Plan, as well as all the jobs and economic activity created by the Balsams.

Now it's your turn, and I urge you to move expeditiously. Delaying a decision or modifying the project to a point that stops the line from being built is not in our best interest. For me, this is about creating jobs and a better future of the North Country.

Sincerely,

Representative John E. Tholl Jr.
Whitefield, NH