



May 26, 2016

Martin Honigberg, Chairman
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street
Concord, New Hampshire, 03301

Re: GMCC Opposed to SEC Schedule for Northern Pass project

Dear Chairman Honigberg:

I write today on behalf of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce (GMCC). The GMCC is a business advocacy organization that represents nearly 900 members from across Southern New Hampshire. The GMCC has identified the high cost of energy as one its top policy priorities as our member businesses have consistently cited energy costs as a barrier to job creation and economic growth.

As part of our advocacy efforts related to this policy priority, the GMCC has endorsed projects and initiatives we believe will contribute to lowering and stabilizing energy costs. The GMCC first endorsed the Northern Pass project in 2012 and reaffirmed its position in support in September of 2015. We believe Northern Pass plan will help address this issue in several ways. First, bringing more than 1,000 megawatts of new energy into the region will help drive down the cost of electricity. New Hampshire customers will save an estimated \$80 million in energy costs simply as a result of the increase in supply. Second, a power purchase agreement between Eversource and Hydro Quebec guarantees that New Hampshire customers will receive the lowest price for the power. Third, increasing the supply of clean hydro power into the region helps diversify our overall energy supply, which makes us less susceptible to the volatility we've seen in the energy markets over the last few years

With the critical need to begin to address our regional energy needs as soon as possible, the GMCC was disappointed by the SEC's recent decision to extend the approve process for Northern Pass through September 2017. We oppose this decision by the SEC and respectfully ask for reconsideration of this issue so that Northern Pass can proceed through the approval process with the schedule established by state statute that the legislature reviewed and enacted only two years ago.

The GMCC is very concerned that efforts to extend out the approval process is simply a delay tactic being used by project opponents to undermine Northern Pass and ultimately attempt to block the project from reaching the end of the approval process. If the SEC allows this course of action to occur with Northern Pass, future energy infrastructure projects will face the same scenario of attempted delays, which undoubtedly will damage our state's ability to attract investment in energy projects at a time when they are sorely needed.

New Hampshire's future economic growth in large part rests on our ability to address our energy needs and stabilizing and lowering costs with new energy infrastructure. We cannot afford any delay in considering projects like Northern Pass, which is the largest proposed new source of low-cost energy before us and can be a big part of the solution for our state and region. We urge the SEC to reconsider its decision on the approval schedule for the Northern Pass project.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Skelton", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Skelton
President and CEO
Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce

CC: Governor Maggie Hassan
Senate President Chuck Morse
Senate Majority Leader Jeb Bradley
House Speaker Shawn Jasper