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New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
Pamela G. Monroe, Administrator
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301
Re: Public Comment for Northern Pass Transmission – Eversource SEC Docket No. 2015-06ve

Dear Ms. Monroe:

This is a letter from a concerned citizen who is writing to present a case against the Northern Pass Transmission Project.

It is the role of the government to protect its people. The people of New Hampshire have entrusted the Site Evaluation Committee (“SEC”) to look after the interests of the State of New Hampshire and its people. Big business (in this case, supervised by the Government of Canada and also beholden to out of state interests, including New York Stock Exchange “NYSE” investors into Eversource) has bottomless pockets in comparison to the private citizens of New Hampshire they are battling in order to pursue the bottom line. Money can always buy more skilled and experienced lawyers and advocates, but it is your role, as the SEC, to take a stand for the people and land which you have a public duty to protect.

There are a few black-and-white facts which no advocate, no matter how savvy, can argue around:

- Hydroelectric energy from Northern Pass would serve the people of Massachusetts and Connecticut, yet they are not the ones sacrificing their lands – New Hampshire would be. If all of the talk that this project would benefit the people of New Hampshire were true, then why will the transmission lines connect to other states? Why are most people in New Hampshire opposing this, and more people out of state in favor of it?
- Any economic benefit is temporary at best. If this project is approved, the Forward NH Fund will run out one day, and construction jobs will one day no longer be needed. In that day, the people of New Hampshire will inherit a situation where they continue to suffer decreased property values, defaced public and private land, and health and safety consequences (including electro-magnetic radiation) into perpetuity. The winners will be the out-of-state investors and shareholders of Eversource and the Government of Canada, and the very small minority of people who have longer-term employment.

This is a question about leaving a legacy for future generations. Our future generations will thank you that you stood up for the New Hampshire people and land against foreign interests. In 100 years, this is what people will remember.

I am a conservative voter and believe in limited government, and have voted Republican in every election since I turned 18. I understand the persuasive argument in favor of developing infrastructure even in the midst of natural beauty, because I believe that when push comes to shove, I choose people’s livelihoods over the environment. I know that these issues are typically not cut and dry as either side makes it out to be. I can even see why Pennsylvania approved drilling on the Marcellus. The government is helping its own people and its own economy, and if there were a more environmentally friendly way to do so, it would have a captive audience.

However, in this case with Northern Pass, there isn’t even that argument to be made, as the people of New Hampshire are not the beneficiaries. Your Canadian neighbors to the north and your countrymen to the south are. You would be defacing pristine land forever in order to realize a quick windfall and ultimately serve out-of-state interests and increase reliability on foreign energy.

Should the project be allowed, the minimal concession must be that it is entirely underground. If Hydro Quebec is willing to do that for Vermont, New York, and Maine, then it sure can do that for New Hampshire.

It is my hope that the State of New Hampshire will take a stand for its people and its lands, for the common good versus the benefit of the few. This would be in keeping with the New England spirit which has abided in your people up to now, which the rest of the country watches and monitors, and whether we admit it or not, looks up to. My prayers that you choose a direction against the trend of our world but one that is good and right.

Kind regards,

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