

We have lived in our Deerfield home since 1975. It is an antique colonial farmhouse with a historic 100 foot barn across the road. Our property is comprised of three contiguous parcels totaling 75 acres, approximately 7 acres in fields with highly rated soils and the remaining 68 acres in managed forest land. Over the years we have made significant investments of time, money and sweat equity in restoring our house and barn, planting extensive gardens, cultivating our fields of blueberries and establishing a small orchard. We have put down roots in Deerfield, raising our three children here and becoming part of the community through volunteering on town committees and serving on the boards of local civic organizations. Many of our dear friends live here and have similar stories to tell. We all value Deerfield's rural character and have supported the town's planning and conservation efforts over the decades with both our participation and our financial contributions.

Northern Pass is a threat to our way of life in Deerfield and would change the way we look at the future of our town and our long term plans for our property. The tall towers marching through forests and fields, right next to the historic town center, across wetlands and major roadways would be a highly visible and audible degradation in the rural character of Deerfield which we as a town have worked so hard for so many years to protect and preserve. The towers combined with the major expansion of the existing substation in Deerfield, doubling its size, would bring industrialization to our small town on an unprecedented scale. The noise and light pollution from the new substation facility would permanently impact all living things for miles around it and its construction would destroy wooded habitat areas and wetlands.

These major changes to life in Deerfield that would result from Northern Pass would certainly have a negative impact on the way we experience our home and our town and would reduce our interest in both the possible future conservation of our land and in town conservation efforts overall. Why work so hard to preserve a place that has been so significantly degraded? We would also fear that the community itself would change. Why would people who love and value natural beauty, rural character and open space move to a town that has been industrialized? Those who appreciate conservation, open space and a rural lifestyle would very likely look elsewhere, to a town that had not been so visibly compromised in terms of its environment and aesthetics.

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