

From: Michael Lehner <mclehner@mcdonald-lehner.com>
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2017 5:07 PM
To: Monroe, Pamela
Subject: Northern Pass comment

Dear Ms. Monroe,

I would like to add my voice to the many opposing the Northern Pass project. The point below has been made many times before, by many others, but apparently is *still* not being considered fully.

Northern Pass is asking the government to force unrelated parties to bear a significant portion of Northern Pass's costs, so the private owners of Northern Pass can make more money.

Keep in mind, no one is saying that Northern Pass cannot build the line. Those, like myself, who oppose it, are only opposing the concept of the government forcing the abutters and other to bear Northern Pass's costs. If Northern Pass was willing to pay full compensation to all of those whose property values would be diminished by an aerial line or bury the line, the situation would be very different. But it is not. Rather it is insisting that the government use its considerable powers, granted it by the people, to force the line's abutters to pay some of Northern Pass's costs, despite those abutters not receiving any of the economic value created by Northern Pass.

I simply do not understand why the government should use its powers to make the owners of one particular private company richer and the abutters to that company poorer? If Northern Pass succeeds in this effort, where exactly does this process stop? Can I ask the government to force my neighbor to allow me to build a toxic waste dump right next to his land? Certainly his property values would be greatly diminished but I would make a lot of money.

I am a firm believer in the free market, but that means that *the beneficiaries of an economic activity must bear **all** the costs of that economic activity.* Otherwise, the pricing mechanism that is the cornerstone of the free market breaks down. Northern Pass simply wants the government to force others to bear some of its costs so it can make more money than it would otherwise. No amount of expensive, deeply dishonest, and often deeply offensive obfuscation by Northern Pass's lobbyists changes that one simple fact.

Sincerely yours,

Michael Lehner
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