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Good morning, Commission members,

My name is Ray Boissoneau. For nearly 40 years, I owned and oversaw operations for Electropac in Manchester. We were a global leader in printed circuit boards. For those who aren't familiar with this product, printed circuit boards are used in all but the simplest electronic products. They route signals and power through electronic devices, providing both mechanical and electrical connections, like an electronic "Lego", a building block that connects circuits and makes things work.

I have been in this ever-changing industry since the 60s and owned Electropac since the mid-1970s. The technology evolved at a dizzying pace; it was exciting to know our circuits were pioneering the computer age.

One thing that never changed, though, was the price of electricity. It was the highest cost I faced outside of wages, and it was an extremely burdensome cost. I love this region and wanted to stay here and operate in New England, but my competitors were saving millions through cheaper energy costs, so we had to be that much faster, smarter and efficient in our operations to close the gap.

I sold my business in 2015. I wasn't driven out by high electric rates, but I can tell you that my contemporaries in the high tech industry look at New Hampshire with a sense of caution because nothing has been done to lower rates for manufacturing businesses.

Be aware of the message you send to companies that may wish to locate in New Hampshire. Power costs are a huge bargaining chip among states and regions. You must do something to move this and other cost-saving plans forward, or the economy will be weakened as a result. This must be about more than just the geography of power lines – it must be about the health and well-being of our state's economy.

Northern Pass will lower electric rates by at least 5%. That is a major step in the right direction. Don't stop there – find other, similar projects and let's move to a cleaner, cheaper and more efficient energy grid. It matters now and it will matter more with every passing year.