



The Senate of the State of New Hampshire

107 North Main Street, Concord, N.H. 03301-4951

CHARLES W. MORSE
President of the Senate

State House, Room 302
(603) 271-8472

June 23, 2017

Commissioner Marty Honigberg
Chair, NH Site Evaluation Committee
New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Commissioner Honigberg,

I am writing to offer my support for the Northern Pass Transmission project (NPT) currently being evaluated by the NH Site Evaluation Committee (NHSEC). I believe the developers of this project have undertaken considerable effort to propose a project that addresses many of the concerns raised by New Hampshire citizens and other special interests, and ultimately the project will bring major benefits to our state and region.

First, let me thank you and the members of the NHSEC for your time and effort in reviewing this project. While I appreciate the complexity of this project, I do remain concerned about the initial 9-month extension added to the NHSEC's regulatory review, and, further, the NHSEC's recent announcement that it plans to add additional months to this already extended process. At this point, the NHSEC's review is extended approximately a full year beyond the Committee's statutory requirement.

Between 2014 and 2015, my office held several meetings with citizens, business interests, environmental groups and other interested parties opposed to the Northern Pass project. My office also held several meetings with the Northern Pass Transmission project. The purpose of these meetings was to gain a better understanding of the project, potential project benefits and the concerns held by those citizens opposed to the project, and to see if changes could be developed that could address the concerns being raised.

Over this time period, I was pleased with the efforts of NPT to actively engage and listen to the concerns of project opponents, and propose changes to the project to address those concerns. As a result of these discussions, NPT proposed several revisions to the project, including additional underground on state roads, utilizing new technology to reduce the size of overhead transmission structures, establishment of a fund to benefit the state and impacted communities, and creation of a purchase power agreement to benefit electric customers. I believe that these project revisions went a long way toward addressing the concerns that had

been expressed to my office and other legislators, and struck a balance that made NPT a project worthy of my support.

As an elected official for the past two decades, I have been involved in discussions on many major infrastructure projects in our state. These projects, such as the expansion of Interstate 93, all bring some level of impact and face considerable opposition. Considering this, it is incumbent on the developer, whether state agencies or a private company, to engage opponents, listen to their concerns and exhaust all efforts to address them if possible. This is an approach that I believe has worked well in finding compromise and balance on major projects, and it is an approach that the NPT team embraced and fulfilled before bringing their project forward to the NHSEC. While the ultimate decision on the project correctly lies with the NHSEC, it is important for the Committee to understand that considerable effort was undertaken by NPT to bring a project to the NHSEC that addressed many of the concerns raised by citizens, municipalities and other special interest groups.

As you know, New Hampshire faces a major energy challenge that is putting a drag on our economy. I hear concerns expressed daily from electric customers about the impacts this is having on their businesses and family budgets. The development of the Northern Pass project is an important step toward addressing this problem and, and in providing our citizens much needed reductions in electricity costs.

Again, thank you for your time and effort in reviewing the NPT project, and for your consideration of my support for this important project. I believe it is a project that strikes a positive balance between benefits and impacts, and deserves the NHSEC's support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chuck Morse".

Chuck Morse
President of the Senate