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New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
Pamela G. Monroe, Administrator
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Ms. Monroe,

I am aware that the Site Evaluation Committee (SEC) is meeting today to hear testimony regarding the Northern Pass Project. I would like to add my written comments in opposition to the project as currently proposed for the Committee's consideration.

While I continue to have doubts about the need for this project general as well as concern about the effects of the other portions of the route will have on NH, my comments today are focused specifically on the effects of the proposed towers in the Concord area. These proposed towers are extremely high. In the drawings I have seen they are from 2X to 3X what exists currently in the right of way with some towers as high as 165 feet. In addition to the eyesore these towers will present from many vantage points throughout Concord, the proposal also anticipates a loss of the trees and vegetation that currently serves as a screen to the existing electrical towers and wires along Mountain Road. This will make the towers even more disruptive to what is now a pleasant semi-rural landscape.

At one meeting I attended last year Eversource told me that I shouldn't worry about the towers and the broadened right of way because I would soon get used to them and hardly notice they were there. I find this cavalier attitude offensive and indicative of the disregard Eversource has shown for the legitimate concerns of the citizens who will live with their project. My children attend school right up the road from these proposed towers and we live not far away. I routinely run in the area nearby. Testimony I have heard indicates that these towers would also be visible from downtown and from Diamond Hill. I doubt I would ever get used to the proposed steel towers and the loss of vegetation will change the view to a much more industrial scene. The proposed above ground towers will forever change the character and quality of the Concord experience which we chose because it was both somewhat rural while still having the benefits of a small city.

My husband and I were recently considering a move and we looked at many properties. We rejected a few lovely homes because they were close to some large power lines. As these homes remained on the market for some time while others went under contract in a matter of days I can only assume that others found the proximity to the towers to be a negative factor as well. Eversource has opined that the project will have only minimal impact on property values but it is my experience that proximity to large power lines decreases curb appeal and depresses price.

Finally, the proposal to build large towers rather than bury the lines seems unwise given the projections with regard to weather related to climate change. We are already seeing an increase in powerful storms and it seems foolish to continue to build larger above ground power lines which are subject to damage causing outages during storms. These towers are no longer the state of the art and buried lines are increasingly favored. Eversource has cited cost as the reason they will not bury the lines. This is not a public project. It is a private project for the benefit of Eversource and I question the data they are presenting with regard to cost to consumers. Other projects are buried and if this project goes forward Eversource should be required to shoulder the costs of burying the lines.

In closing I would like to remind the Committee of the sustained and vocal objection the people of NH have demonstrated to this project since it became public. That opposition has not waned. How often do large projects simply wear down the opposition? The fact that so many are still standing up wanting to be heard in opposition speaks loudly to the fact that citizens feel this project is not good for NH and they don't want it here. Surely that counts for something. I for one do not want it in my backyard(s) either up in Thornton or in Concord where I have my primary residence.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Naomi Butterfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Naomi W. Butterfield