

SEC COMMENTS COLLECTION

SECDocket	2015-06 Northern Pass Transmission - Eversource
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CommenterWords

I wrote a letter to Governor Sununu, but I have not received any response. This is a copy of the letter I sent to him.

Dear Governor Sununu:

Northern Pass is a great opportunity for New England. It offers an abundance of energy. In fact, it offers more than enough to offset the deficit suffered by some New England states. It is hydro-power, which is more environmentally friendly than gas or oil. The taxes levied on the land used to house the lines will be a financial benefit to New Hampshire communities. During and perhaps after construction, there will be new jobs for New Hampshire residents. In response to public outcry, the companies proposing Northern Pass have made efforts to bury lines so as not to damage the scenic landscapes that draw so many tourists to our state. All in all, the deal seems fair. Why, then, do I oppose Northern Pass?

I oppose Northern Pass because even if the entire length of line is buried, its installation will harm the environment such burial aims to preserve. Burying the lines will result in miles of violated ground and disturbed waterways where fragile ecosystems exist. And then what if there is a problem in the lines years from now? We would have to incur the damage all over again. It would be better to find a less intrusive way to obtain energy.

I oppose Northern Pass because it is an enabler. The energy it so tantalizingly offers will allow us to continue using more energy than we need rather than teaching us to conserve and be stewards of the earth. I do not care that the energy from Northern Pass will mostly go to states outside of New Hampshire: if Northern Pass brings clean energy to Massachusetts, for example, then the end result is less pollution for all. That is something to be encouraged. However, I do care if the existence of Northern Pass undermines other states' drives to create their own clean energy and reduce their carbon footprints.

I oppose Northern Pass because it benefits big business the most. There are smaller, more innovative companies who are striving to bring clean, renewable resources to New Hampshire. These businesses will be more beneficial for the environment; therefore, we should put our efforts into providing them with the support they need rather than choosing the easy route.

The biggest incentive New Hampshire has for building Northern Pass is the opportunity for revenue and jobs the project will provide. It is difficult to see so many struggling people in our community and deny them a chance at earning income, regardless of how transient the employment may be. However, Northern Pass is not the only way to stimulate the economy while providing renewable energy--it is simply the biggest, most obvious way. If our community focuses its energies on converting environmental stewardship into employment opportunities, then we can have our proverbial cake and eat it, too.

Before taking a stance on Northern Pass, I urge you to look at the big picture: How will our decisions now enable us to achieve clean, renewable, sustainable energy sources for the generations to come? How can we meet our community's needs while also tempering humans' inclination to consume whatever is available? How can we turn our need for energy into employment opportunities that benefit rather than harm the environment?

Northern Pass is not a one time choice. It is a life-time choice. As such, we owe it to ourselves and those who will come after us to make the decision that is best for all. Say no to Northern Pass and yes to a New Hampshire that combines environmental responsibility with employment opportunity. Say no to Northern Pass and yes to a New Hampshire that is energy independent. Say no to Northern pass and yes to a New Hampshire where sustainability yields profit--and every dollar stays here.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Respectfully,

Sheila Droney