

**From:** Tovar Cerulli <[tovar.cerulli@gmail.com](mailto:tovar.cerulli@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2017 8:23 AM

**To:** Monroe, Pamela

**Cc:** Charlie Levesque; Robert Bryan

**Subject:** NEBHA - Northern Pass Transmission

Ms. Monroe:

Attached please find a letter from the New England chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers to the NH Site Evaluation Committee, regarding the Northern Pass Transmission project.

Sincerely,

Tovar Cerulli  
NEBHA Co-Chair  
PO Box 82  
Montpelier, VT 05601  
802-249-9349



# BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS New England Chapter

October 12, 2017

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

Re: SEC Docket No. 2015-06, Northern Pass Transmission – Eversource

Dear Committee Members,

We are writing on behalf of the New Hampshire members of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA) and non-resident members who travel to New Hampshire for its outstanding hunting and fishing. BHA is one of the fastest growing conservation organizations in the country. Our members are hunters and anglers who support policies that promote backcountry experiences, healthy fish and wildlife habitat, and sound stewardship of public lands and waters.

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers opposes Northern Pass. New England is losing 65 acres of wildlands and woodlands per day to development; New Hampshire loses nearly 5,000 acres of forestland each year.<sup>1</sup> Clearing land for the proposed transmission corridor would add to that loss on the White Mountain National Forest, privately owned properties, and other lands specifically conserved to prevent commercial development, including transmission lines.

In addition to forest loss, Northern Pass poses serious long term threats to wildlife, degrading habitat integrity across a large portion of the landscape by fragmenting remote forest wildlife habitat and increasing access to remote ponds. There are also serious water quality concerns about impacts to native brook trout fisheries and other important natural resources from the direct environmental effects related to the construction and ongoing maintenance of overhead lines and 500 miles of new roads, especially in sensitive mountainous areas. These impacts are relevant not only now but also for future generations.

In New Hampshire, outdoor recreation by 69% of the population generates an estimated \$8.7 billion in consumer spending annually, supports 79,000 jobs with \$2.6 billion in wages/salaries, and yields \$528 million in state and local tax revenue.<sup>2</sup> Northern Pass would have a negative impact on businesses in the region that depend on outdoor recreation and tourism. The quality of New Hampshire's backcountry experiences would decline due to expected increases in use of off highway vehicles, decreased scenic value, and loss of remote areas.

We urge you to reject the Northern Pass Transmission project.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Levesque  
Chapter Member  
37 Old Pound Road  
Antrim, NH 03440



Tovar Cerulli  
Chapter Board Co-Chair  
PO Box 82  
Montpelier, VT 05601

Chapter Board email: [NewEngland@backcountryhunters.org](mailto:NewEngland@backcountryhunters.org)

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<sup>1</sup> Foster et al (2017). *Wildlands and Woodlands, Farmlands and Communities*. Harvard Forest, Harvard University: Petersham, MA.

<sup>2</sup> "The Outdoor Recreation Economy" (April 2017). Outdoor Industry Association. [outdoorindustry.org/state/new-hampshire/](http://outdoorindustry.org/state/new-hampshire/).