

November 09, 2017

Dear Governor Sununu,

I've attended many public hearings in opposition to the Northern Pass and I appreciate the opportunity to address this letter to you to highlight my concerns. Our Granite State goes by many names to include the 'Mother of Rivers', the 'White Mountain State' and the 'Switzerland of America'. Our heritage speaks for itself and has often served as a lifesaving call to the bounty of tourists who seek to share in the natural bliss that we have on display on a year-round basis. I hope you will agree that our state deserves to be preserved and is worth more than the nickname 'Extension Cord', an aptly derived moniker for the high voltage line that would, if approved, act to cannibalize a significant portion of our White Mountain Natural Forest by snaking its way down the irreplaceable woodlands that the Weeks Act of 1918 sought to protect.

The energy to be transmitted by the Northern Pass is not designed for our use and to do anything that would act to decimate a significant portion of our White Mountain Natural Forest, for the sake of a corporate interest, would be a great shame as it would leave a 21st century scar, using 20th century stitching, that would never heal.

As has been reported elsewhere there are other alternatives available, some of which would cost less and each of which would entail less of an environmental impact. The Granite State Power Link proposal would harness wind and hydroelectric energy in Quebec and require just 6 miles of new transmission line in New Hampshire. Those lines, according to the plan, would be built along existing utility corridors. Another example is the Granite State Power Link that would deliver 1,200 MW of clean, affordable Canadian wind power to New England. While that plan proposes building 59 miles of new HVDC direct current transmission line, and 109 miles of alternate current transmission line, each would stay within or adjacent to existing transmission corridors.

I respectfully submit this letter for the sake of preserving our state's White Mountain National Forest. Our bold steps forward into this new century of green, renewable energy should be made using the smallest footprints possible.

Sincerely,

Paul Blackford
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