

**From:** [Christopher Brooks](#)  
**To:** [Monroe, Pamela](#)  
**Subject:** Northern Pass comment - Christopher Brooks, Bethlehem NH  
**Date:** Thursday, December 21, 2017 7:38:59 PM

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December 21, 2017

Christopher Brooks  
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P.O. Box 423  
Bethlehem NH 03574-0423

Dear Ms. Monroe:

I wish to submit the following as a public comment regarding Northern Pass.

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I write in opposition to the proposed Northern Pass plan which would pass first through Bethlehem, where I now reside, and then the adjacent town of Franconia, where I formerly lived for more than 20 years. Since others with more expertise have addressed the dimensions of scale, need and cost, I will confine my remarks to view and character.

It's a widely shared and understandable phenomenon that many of us in New Hampshire consider the particular town where we live the "best little town in New Hampshire." But in this respect, Bethlehem is arguably unique. U.S. Route 302, which transects the town, is oriented for five or six miles directly east-to-west facing towards Mt. Washington to the east. Bethlehem's first settlers laid out this road, and ensuing generations widened and improved it as the town became a 19th-century summer hotel mecca. Always, the Main Street view of the Presidentials to the east was an integral part of the town's character and identity.

Once today's visitor has left I-93 and climbed Long Hill to reach the village, a stretch of road ensues in which Mt. Washington, which is perhaps 15 miles east as the crow flies, persists as the visible central focus all the way down the road. Eight months of the year the peak is covered in snow, while its companion Presidential Range peaks fan out around it on the horizon. It's a magnificent view and one that visitors to Bethlehem have told us again and again is a lasting memory for them.

Traveling west on 302 from the Carroll (Twin Mountain) town line, the visitor encounters a number of fine dining and hospitality establishments, as well as two golf courses designed by legendary golf course architect Donald Ross. The westbound traveler passes through the village, descends Long Hill, and then comes to Baker Pond, where one of the NP towers is slated to stand. Our town has spent several years courting a developer who proposes to build a Homewood Estates (Hilton brand) hotel by Baker Pond. But now that project, which would bring the town vitally needed new tax revenue, is on pause as the developer tries to pin down Eversource as to whether it will or will not honor a previous verbal commitment to locate any tower out of sight of the Homewood property. After all, who would prefer overnight accommodations in the shadow of a monstrous steel tower?

While Bethlehem's economy is mixed, a large and growing segment of it relies on tourism. Northern Pass would severely degrade our views and fundamentally change the look of our small town. We are in danger of becoming a drive-through rather than a destination town, and through no fault of our own. I urge the Site Evaluation Committee to look more closely into the alternative routes available for any new transmission line, and to reject the sloppily-planned and unwanted Northern Pass.

Sincerely,

Christopher Brooks  
Bethlehem