

Colles Stowell
31 Martin Meadow Pond Rd.
Lancaster, N.H.
Dec. 21, 2017

Pamela Monroe
N.H. Site Evaluation Committee

Dear Pamela,

I appreciate your taking into account everyone's comments to reflect the very nature of the public process.

There is a reason this project has been banging against the rocks of stiff opposition from a majority of N.H. residents and property owner for years. Since the partners submitted their first proposed route in 2011, the opposition has been quite vocal, organized and unified. This project would provide little if any public benefit to the state of New Hampshire and its citizens. In essence, it will be one long extension cord to benefit Hydro Quebec and Eversource, their investors, and Eversource customers in N.Y., CT and western MA. Yes, and some NH residents who sold their properties for a high price to clear the path will benefit as well.

Why would N.H. even entertain this type of project? I've attended hearings where Eversource representatives tout the Forward NH plan that would bring "economic benefits" such as new jobs and revenue. By Eversource's own admission, the majority of these jobs would be construction-focused, which would not be permanent, and the economic benefit is speculative and dependent on many uncertainties.

So this colossal project would have limited economic benefit to rate payers (who will receive none of the power transmitted), and speculative benefit to the state other than the fees and promised offsets should construction proceed.

This raises the question of resource impacts. Anyone who has attended the hearings, or looked at polls knows that the biggest complaint isn't just about purported economic benefit. It's the damage to the landscape and the direct impact it will have to landowners who will have ridiculously high towers looming over them and their properties. The *latest* proposed route transects precious forests that are part of the public trust, again paying little benefit to that public.

If the Site Evaluation Commission's duty here is to assess the project on its merit to or impact on the public, the commission must ask the question: what is the public benefit?

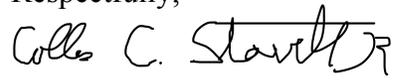
I personally see little, if any benefit, economic or otherwise. Instead, I see the specter of greed and politics preparing to permanently scar New Hampshire's most priceless asset: its natural beauty.

On balance, is that really a public benefit?

I'm going to go out on a limb and predict that a profound majority of New Hampshire residents and taxpayers would say no.

This project should either be taken off the table or buried end to end, at the expense of Eversource and Hydro Quebec.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colles C. Stowell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" at the end.

Colles Stowell
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Lancaster, NH 03584