

SEC COMMENTS COLLECTION

SECDocket	2015-06 Northern Pass Transmission - Eversource
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CommenterCity	Colebrook
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CommenterWords

I am submitting these comments on behalf of my family. They include my husband Robert and myself, our daughter Jennifer Keazer, her children, our daughter Katie Parker, her husband Shawn and their daughter. Our family has lived on Harvey Swell Road in Colebrook for the last 170 years. We are still actively farming on our 460 acres. We harvest hay, produce maple syrup, grow Christmas trees and blueberries and operate a bed & breakfast. It is a most beautiful and scenic property. It has been photographed countless times, been the subject of artists, appeared in books, magazines and promotional brochures. It is an iconic landmark here in the north country.

Our farm sits at the height of the land, affords panoramic views and is located in such a way that Northern Pass' towers will be able to be seen from 60% of our farm. We do not border on NP land but are located in close proximity to it. Without a doubt, property values on our three homes, outbuildings and land will be compromised. We have used our property's value to finance projects and improvements. We are concerned that this capability will be diminished substantially.

We live in the area known as East Colebrook. Over the last thirty years, all but a handful of the farms have gone out of business. Dozens of beautiful and substantial homes (most being second homes) with amazing views like ours have been built on some of this land. One, which borders on our property had an estimated building cost of 1.2 million dollars. This growth in real estate has a profound effect on our town's tax base. Taxes would be unbearable if not for this activity. No one will build or buy property which overlooks NP. The real estate market will suffer greatly.

The raw beauty of the East Colebrook area has also been important for us. Our inn (www.thekeazerfarm.com) is attractive to tourists for the majestic mountain views, rolling hills and forests. Our guests are always at awe with the intimacy of the mountains. They seem to surround us. We are an unique outlet because of our central location to activities in the north country and it is closer to those travelling from points south. Much of our business is returning guests. NP will not be conducive to our business, or to the other neighboring inns and potentially anyone who might consider this type of commercial activity. Tourist accommodations are desperately needed for the north country economy. These "tourists" often become our neighbors.

Lastly, we love where we live. It is our heritage. We have been good stewards of our property. We have and are still very involved in our community. The eighth generation of our family is growing up here. They are quite young but have already expressed their interest in the farm. We hope to pass on to them the same quality of life we have had. We wish for them a wonderful future. Farming as you can imagine is challenging. Inspiration for completing our work comes from our being able to pause and take in our stunning surroundings.

Please vote no on Northern Pass or at the least, require it all to be buried. The quality of life for us will never be the same if NP is allowed to proceed. It will be catastrophic to the future of the entire region and to the state. WE TRULY BELIEVE THIS.