

TOWN OF STRAFFORD  
INCORPORATED 1820  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

OFFICE OF THE SELECTMEN

CENTER STRAFFORD, N.H. 03815

January 12, 2017

NHPUC JAN20'17 AM10:33

New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee  
Attn: Ms. Pamela Monroe, Administrator  
21 Fruit Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Ms. Monroe:

The Board of Selectmen for the Town of Strafford would like to take this opportunity to write in support of the Petition for Declaratory Ruling submitted by the Towns of Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Bristol, Clarksville, Deerfield, Easton, Franconia, Littleton, New Hampton, Northumberland, Pembroke, Pittsburg, Plymouth, Stewartstown, Sugar Hill, Whitefield, and Woodstock, the City of Concord, the Ashland Water and Sewer Department, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, and the Appalachian Mountain Club regarding the question of whether only municipalities have the authority to authorize or not the installation of electrical power poles, structures, or underground facilities in municipal rights of way.

We agree with the Boards of Selectmen of these towns that the statutory provisions in RSA 231:161 provide municipal governing bodies the exclusive authority to permit and license the uses of municipally-owned rights of way. Municipal governing bodies have the authority and responsibility to protect the health, safety and fiscal sustainability of our residents. If the SEC allows outside access to municipal rights of way, the towns will have no recourse for potential damages and we will have lost the ability to control our own municipal infrastructure.

In closing, we support the Petition addressed to your Committee, and we thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,

Town of Strafford  
Board of Selectmen



Lynn M. Sweet



Bryant J. Scott



Scott L. Young