



City of Concord, New Hampshire

City Council

41 GREEN STREET
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 225-8500

August 14, 2017

New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Committee,

On behalf of our community, the Concord City Council wants you to know that we absolutely do not believe that the local economic benefits of the Northern Pass project are sufficient for you to determine that its construction is the public interest -- if it is built as proposed through Concord.

The scale of the project will have significant visual and aesthetic impacts within our city. An 8-mile stretch of new overhead industrial transmission lines on 100+/- foot towers will bisect Concord. In some areas, there are design concepts proposed for monopoles to exceed 160 feet in height. (Please see attached height comparison.)

With a population of 42,000 that swells to more than 80,000 during the workweek, in Concord, Northern Pass potentially has more direct impact on more people than in any other location in the state. Never mind the fact that we are the state capital.

As part of our Vision 20/20 and Master Planning process, the City has taken measures to conserve land in order to preserve scenic views and natural vistas from our roads and public properties in a strategic effort to protect Concord's rural character and quality of life. An above-ground Northern Pass will significantly damage our efforts to accomplish this.

Over the last ten years we have conserved a total of 2,296 acres of land in Concord at a cost of more than \$3.7 million. As proposed, Northern Pass transmission lines will be visible from many of our conservation and recreation areas, including Broken Ground Conservation Area and Oak Hill Trails. Views of the towers may be seen from as far away as White Park and Dimond Hill Farm.

The new industrial lines will also be visible from the second floor windows (and above) of many buildings on our recently reconstructed Main Street -- where we invested significantly as a community to bury utility lines to improve the aesthetics of our downtown core. There will also be significant impacts to the residential neighborhoods, retail and commercial areas that abut the line.

We also have concerns about other issues, which include adverse impacts to natural resources (including the Karner Blue Butterfly) and local historic sites.

Northern Pass is an elective merchant funded project designed to transmit electricity from Quebec through New Hampshire to the urban Massachusetts market. Its overall benefit to New Hampshire and the public is questionable.

As we have heard from our residents, if the line is built as proposed, its costs to the quality of life in Concord are perceived to be substantial.

If you do approve the project, we implore you to order the line to be buried through Concord to balance the scales of the project's public benefit.

Respectfully,

The Members of the Concord City Council

Attachment: Putting Northern Pass Pole Heights in Perspective