

# Dear Governor Baker:

Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) has been pleased to work with your cabinet to keep New England on the path to a carbon-free future.

**We are at a critical crossroads, and the decisions your administration makes next will shape the future of your environment and energy legacy.** Our state is poised to move forward on the next generation of clean energy, from major wind power developments to hydroelectric imports. Now, your team is tasked with choosing which projects to support. And, while CLF has filed detailed comments on the process, one bidder simply should be disqualified from consideration.

The Eversource/Northern Pass proposal – a 192-mile project slicing through New Hampshire communities and scenic, priceless landscapes – is unacceptable for its environmental impacts alone. But even these concerns are overshadowed by the company's dishonest and disdainful treatment of communities and regulatory agencies in the permitting and bidding process. Some examples:

- The Northern Pass bid claimed the project would be fully approved by the end of 2017. In reality, **Northern Pass has not received permission** from the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee, **has not received a number of necessary authorizations** to begin construction on the line, and **has not even applied for certification** by the U.S. Department of Energy or state regulators for their proposed hydro-wind project.
- The Northern Pass bid claims the transmission line will be in service in 2020. Even if Northern Pass's false claims about regulatory approval were true, **construction will take a minimum of three years once the project is fully permitted.**
- Northern Pass claims the project has broad public support in New Hampshire, but the opposite is true. **Of the 1,500 public comments submitted, more than 90 percent oppose the project.**
- Northern Pass claims the project would reduce electricity costs for businesses and families. As evidence, they pointed to **a proposed contract that was quickly declared illegal by the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission.**
- Northern Pass falsely claimed that the project finances could not support burial of any meaningful segment of its 192 miles of wires. While changing their tune several times, they remain insistent that significant burial is impossible. **At least one competing bidder has promised full burial from the start.**

Balancing competing interests is never easy, but it demands candor and respect for the public and your administration. Disqualifying Northern Pass is essential to the integrity of this important decision.

