



Town of Amherst, New Hampshire
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August 24, 2015

Senator Kelly Ayotte
144 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Ayotte,

Attached you will find a copy of a letter sent by the Amherst Board of Selectmen to Governor Maggie Hassan on August 10th regarding the proposed Northeast Energy Direct (NED) natural gas transmission pipeline project (FERC Docket No. PF14-22) proposed by Kinder Morgan (KM) that is currently proposed to run through our town, as well as sixteen other New Hampshire towns. In this letter we expressed disappointment with the Governor for her tacit support of the NED pipeline project. The letter we sent to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on June 9th, and that we shared with the Governor, and with you, that clearly demonstrates that building pipeline across southern New Hampshire is not justifiable and quite possibly represents an unconstitutional taking from the people of New Hampshire for the benefit of the people of Massachusetts. We are preparing to litigate the issue on these grounds should this pipeline be approved. The attached letter contains a summary account of our arguments against the pipeline.

We are disappointed that Governor Hassan has not taken a clear position either for or against this pipeline or provided any justification for her tacit support of this unpopular project. There is a growing body of evidence that the decision to move the pipeline into New Hampshire was a purely political ploy by Kinder Morgan to avoid the strong backlash from the politically powerful (and more numerous) represented in Congress eastern half of Massachusetts — the region that will benefit most from the pipeline. We are also disappointed that our congressional delegation has to date likewise avoided taking any definitive stance for or against the pipeline or made any statement at all on the issue aside from sending joint letters to the FERC requesting in effect that the commission “do its job”.

As Senator you have a significant voice in Washington, DC, that the FERC must listen to as it decides the fate of hundreds of households across southern New Hampshire. If you believe this pipeline proposal and its route through Amherst are good for the residents of our town and our state, please make the case to your constituents. Better still, please come to Amherst and address the issue directly with our residents in a town hall discussion. A study conducted by a highly respected committee of Amherst volunteers who put in over a thousand hours of work over the winter and spring, strongly suggests that the pipeline will not benefit New Hampshire, even indirectly. As our federal representative, we hope that you might have answers supported by research of your own that can explain why we are being asked to accept this intrusion into our small but beloved town.

The heavily populated and nationally powerful eastern half of Massachusetts successfully pushed the pipeline out of their communities—and into New Hampshire—even though the residents of those areas stand to gain the most from the project. They did so by bringing pressure to bear on Kinder Morgan and the FERC at the federal level. We hope that you and Governor Hassan will do everything you can to make sure that the burdens of this proposed pipeline, should it come to pass, fall on the people who will benefit from it, namely the residents of Massachusetts.

New Hampshire's motto is "Live Free or Die." Please help us keep a federal commission from trampling all over that sentiment.

Thank you,

Dwight Brew, Chairman

John D'Angelo, Vice Chairman

Tom Grella, Selectman

Nate Jensen, Selectman

Reed Panasiti, Selectman

Attachment