

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 16, 2013

The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0800

Re: New Hampshire Northern Pass Presidential Permit/Connecticut Lakes
Headwaters Conservation Easement.

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

We write to you in regard to the Forest Legacy Grant award and the resulting Connecticut Headwater Conservation Easement Deed which was granted to the State of New Hampshire in October of 2003. The purpose of this easement was to conserve land located in the towns of Pittsburg, Clarksville and Stewartstown. This easement was made possible through the use of Forest Legacy Program (FLP) funds, specifically an \$11,548,000 FLP grant. As you know, FLP is a federal program administered by the USDA Forest Service in partnership with the States.

Recently, the Northern Pass Transmission, LLC filed an amendment to their application for a Presidential permit with the Department of Energy (DOE). Northern Pass is requesting the Presidential permit to construct, operate, maintain, and connect a high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line across the U.S.-Canada border. The proposed HVDC transmission line would be capable of transmitting up to 1,200-MW of power into New England. The proposal for a transmission line includes an alternate route which would require that Northern Pass penetrate the Connecticut Lakes Headwater conservation easement.

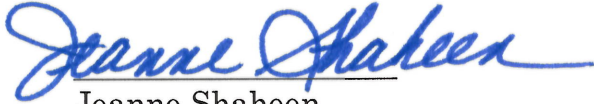
We do not believe that such a use of this land is permitted under the easement. Given that FLP funds were used to purchase this easement, we ask you to confirm that the terms of the FLP grant and the Conservation Easement Deed prohibit the penetration of the Northern Pass project transmission lines and infrastructure into, on, or under the land protected by the easement.

The potential use of this protected land for installation of a transmission line has evoked significant public concern in our state. As the DOE reviews the amended application, information you provide on the restrictions imposed by the

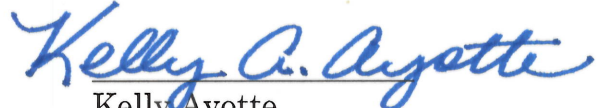
FLP grant and the resulting easement will help address some of the concerns raised by our constituents.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Kelly Ayotte
United States Senator



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

Cc:

Dr. Ernest Moniz, Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy

Brian Mills,

Senior Planning Advisor Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, DOE