

MR. QUINLAN - LEVER SOURCE NH

REMARKS BY DICK SWETT

As an architect and renewable energy developer from way back before talk of polar ice caps melting or global climate change were even mentioned, as a former member of Congress who served on the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee and on the Science and Technology Committee, and as a member of the NH Clean Tech Council, I have always been interested in the intersection of design esthetics, power production, environmental protection and economic profitability. My work today continues to combine these four components in what I hope ~~is~~ <sup>are</sup> a balanced and practical, yet beautiful way. ~~way.~~ <sup>Solutions:</sup>

The Northern Pass is a challenging project to consider when these requirements are applied to it, yet I believe there is a way to balance all in harmony. This project will be a long enduring source of power for many years to come. For that reason, we should take the long view and make sure that it, over time, does nothing to diminish the esthetics of our beautiful state. That long time line also enables it to recoup its profits ~~over time~~ and to spread out the costs over time. <sup>as well.</sup>

For these reasons I rise to contribute my voice to those who would like to see the line buried for the entire distance through the North Country. The economics have been proven feasible in our neighboring states of Vermont and Maine. Burying the line would leave our wilderness in a pristine condition without the imposition of horrendously ugly towers cutting across the landscape, and would minimize the environmental impact. Over time, perhaps a little longer than originally planned, revenue could be recouped and profits would not diminish to unacceptable levels.

At the same time, I believe that the developers should show a commitment to NH's ability to self generate renewable power in the North Country and ~~help~~ provide a way to help it get to market in the southern tier of the state. I know there is talk of Northern Pass providing economic support for the upgrade of the COOS Loop, which would enable the green power produced in the North Country to make its way to the south. I encourage this commitment of support

to be realized, for the sake of our local economy and our commitment to our natural habitat. It is a small price to pay that will enable <sup>our</sup> the great state of NH to self-generate power using its own resources. This will not only make us less reliant on energy from over our border, it will enable us to produce greater economic churn from every dollar spent on energy that is spent within our state borders, in some cases generating economic activity over six times its original value. The ~~NH Clean Tech Council's report~~, New Hampshire's Clean Tech Market Report, dated February 2015 states on page 15 that "if NH could achieve the kind of relatively more efficient relationship between total energy expenditures and economic activity as Massachusetts (which is a leader in New England and the nation in cleantech), then NH citizens and businesses would have spent \$2 billion less on energy in 2012 for the same level of economic output. And where would that \$2 billion have gone? Mostly back into the state's economy in other areas, boosting producers of other goods and services and incentivizing job creation." Northern Pass can help make this happen through its support of that upgrade of the COOS Loop.

In conclusion, let me say that the beauty of our natural environment is central to our economic well being, as we share it with all who come to visit our beautiful state. We need to protect our environment and at the same time allow for utilization of our natural resources for the generation of power that creates more than light in the night, it creates employment for many more people than will be employed by Northern Pass long after it has been built. The balancing of these points will allow profits to be realized by all parties concerned, the economy will be strengthened, and the future of the state will remain bright. I encourage the burial of the Northern Pass line and the upgrade of the COOS Loop for these reasons.

Thank you.