

Good evening my name is Roy Stever. Thank you for the opportunity to come. I'm chairman of the Easton, New Hampshire, Conservation Commission. Our Commission is currently working on habitat protection, local agriculture, the preservation of cultural records and energy conservation in the town of Easton. Easton Conservation Commission strongly opposes Northern Pass. We believe that the project would be a devastating effect on wetlands, habitat, recreation, tourism, scenic values and cultural resources. We have filed an application as an intervenor in the EIS proceedings. With limited time I will review our request to the panel first, then circle back with supporting evidence. It seems to make intelligent comments and we believe facts have been withheld. Hopefully, I can prove that. We asked that the following be delivered to the Easton Conservation Commission 45 days prior to the close of any EIS comment period. 1, answers to the questions that we submitted to Northern Pass in July which I will explain in a minute. 2, a fair and thorough assessment of Easton's visual landscape including more than 20 high-valued views. 3, consideration of viable alternatives including the no build option and burial along existing transportation corridors. And 4, thorough study of the impact of Northern Pass on the federally and state protected Canada Lynx based on confirmed tracks along Kinsman ridge this past spring within miles of Northern Pass's proposed route detailed in testimony just last night by one of our Commission members, Steve Sabre, in Plymouth. We would like USFS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with input from New Hampshire Fish & Game to examine the need to protect the Kinsman ridge corridor involving Bob Pond and land in Easton as critical habitat under all existing laws, regulations and agreements including the Endangered Species Act as amended and the Canada Lynx Conservation Agreement. It is impossible to comment on this project.

Our commission enjoys a strong working relationship with the White Mountain National Forest. We collaborate on activities such as trail head improvement, cultural resources, habitat improvement. Nearly 7 percent of Easton lives within the forest. On June 10th members of our commission met with Tom Wagner, Supervisor of WMNF and members of his staff to register our concerns, and we were cordially received. On July 2nd we issued an invitation to Mr. Long, then President and COO of PSNH, to meet with our Commission to discuss Northern Pass. Mr. Martin Murray followed up, agreeing to meet, even nominating dates in August. We believe, however, that Mr. Murray changed his mind after we informed him that our meetings would be open to the public per RSA 91 A. We subsequently received a letter from Mr. Long indicating that we could instead meet at some point in the future prior to the State's site evaluation committee proceedings and after a finer level of engineering design work. Mr. Long and Northern Pass have turned their back on a respected New Hampshire institution in the Conservation Commission. We take our role seriously and approach Northern Pass to ensure of our own objectivity as we do in any project in our town. Mr. Long and Northern Pass team continue to ignore our request to meet and to date have answered none of our 26 questions, something they did not do at the open houses by the way. We believe the actual cost for locating 2 new lines in Easton would make them make the most expensive miles on the entire project due to remote terrain and the need for helicopters. We also believe the environmental, recreational and personal impact along this stretch would be among the highest on the route and we strongly advise consideration of no build or burial along existing corridors. We continue to believe that the project is a private profit-laden insult to the residents of Eaton, the people of New Hampshire, the millions who have visited the White

Mountain National Forest from all over the world, the 100-year-old Weeks Act and the countless dedicated New Hampshire citizens and elected officials who over the centuries have had the courage to say no.