

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 13, 2014

Mrs. Patricia Hoffman, Assistant Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585-0800

Re: New Hampshire Northern Pass Presidential Permit

Dear Assistant Secretary Hoffman:

Thank you for your response dated September 19, 2013, in reply to our August 16, 2013 letter concerning the amended application filed with the Department of Energy (DOE) by Northern Pass Transmission, LLC. We write to strongly reiterate our request that before proceeding to complete a draft Environmental Impact Study (EIS), DOE provide the public with a preliminary report detailing which alternative routes will be studied as part of the EIS.

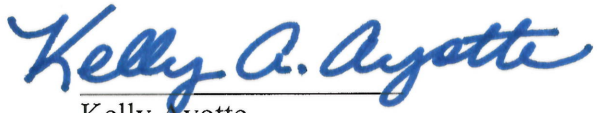
As you recall, our initial letter requested that DOE provide a preliminary report on which alternatives will be examined during the EIS study. We are grateful that your letter indicates a willingness to “consider the value and utility of such a report as the NEPA process for the Northern Pass project progresses.” In addition, as stated in your letter, we appreciate that “As part of the EIS process, the Department will prepare a scoping summary report which will summarize comments received during the scoping period, including those provided orally at scoping meetings.”

As you know, studying alternatives was a top priority voiced by scores of attendees during the additional scoping hearings held in New Hampshire in September 2013. In addition, alternatives were the subject of over a thousand written comments submitted by the public to DOE.

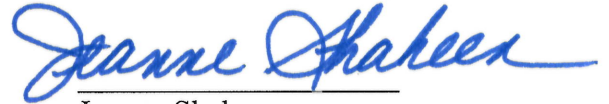
As we have previously emphasized, it is of the utmost importance that New Hampshire citizens are provided an opportunity to have input on a thorough, transparent, and effective EIS study. Given the public’s immense interest in studying alternatives, we are compelled to emphasize and renew our request that DOE provide a preliminary report detailing which alternatives will be studied, and that this report is made public prior to the completion of the draft EIS study.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



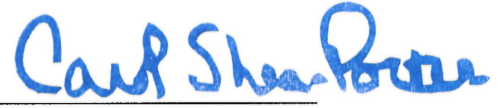
Kelly Ayotte  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress

Cc:

Brian Mills,

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