

June 4, 2012

The Honourable Jean Charest
Premier of Quebec
Édifice Honoré-Mercier
835, boul. René-Lévesque Est
3e étage
Quebec, Quebec
Canada G1A 1B4

Dear Premier Charest:

We are writing to you in our capacity as the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Easton, New Hampshire. Under the laws of New Hampshire we are charged with carrying out the prudential affairs of our Town. We are the executive, managerial, and administrative body that does whatever is necessary to carry out the votes enacted at Easton's yearly town meeting.

We write this letter in protest and complaint regarding the local activities of Hydro-Quebec and its partner, Northern Pass Transmission, LLC and its affiliates. It has come to our attention that Northern Pass Transmission affiliates have been purchasing rural and residential properties in Coos County, New Hampshire in an ill-conceived effort to construct an above-ground high voltage transmission line corridor from Quebec through Coos County and then through much of the rest of New Hampshire using narrow, inadequate rights of way obtained by PSNH over 50 years ago. These right-of-ways run through our town, our neighbors' towns, conservation lands and the White Mountain National Forest. We understand that the Northern Pass project will ultimately be paid for by Hydro-Quebec and that it will be used exclusively by Hydro-Quebec. We also understand that Hydro-Quebec is a wholly owned crown corporation of the Province of Quebec.

This is to advise you and, by copy, Hydro-Quebec's management that the Town of Easton finds such activities in direct opposition to our Town's wishes as approved by the voters. On March 13, 2012 at our Annual Town Meeting, the voters of our town overwhelmingly voted in favor of a "Rights Based Ordinance" imposing a ban on any further construction of above ground high voltage transmission lines, most specifically, at this time, the Northern Pass Project. The Rights Based Ordinance also states that the Town of Easton is in favor of the right to a sustainable energy future and community self-governance in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents and ecosystems of Eason, NH. A copy of the Town's Ordinance is attached.

Hydro-Quebec's stated policy on its website provides, in relevant part, that its projects must be "favorably received" by the local host communities where they are to be built.

<http://www.hydroquebec.com/sustainable-development/themes/engagement.html>. Please be advised that the Northern Pass project is not favorably received in this community and that is an understatement.

On January 31, 2012, New Hampshire's Governor Lynch also stated in his State of the State Address: "The proponents of Northern Pass need to listen better. This project cannot happen without local support." www.governor.nh.gov/media/news/2012/013112-state-of-state.htm. Why then is Hydro-Quebec still supporting and promoting such a project that is so opposed by the impacted communities in New Hampshire?

Please be advised that continuing efforts to buy up private property for construction of Hydro-Quebec's high voltage transmission line in New Hampshire will only lead our community to conclude that the proponents of Northern Pass, including the Province of Quebec, cannot be trusted to keep their word. You must also know that Easton is not alone. Overwhelming and often unanimous votes in over 30 other towns in New Hampshire have opposed the Northern Pass above ground transmission line project since it was publicly disclosed some 18 months ago.

Premier Charest, in the past we have been proud of our good relations with Quebec as a neighbor and as a trade partner. We have felt a deep kinship not just because so many of our citizens have a common heritage, but also because of the mutual benefits we have gained through local commerce and tourism across the border. The continuance of the Northern Pass project, however, is causing irreparable damage to our relationship with, and feelings towards, Quebec. The goals and local methods of Quebec's crown corporation, Hydro-Quebec, are at irreconcilable odds with our local values and our environment. We are asking you to intervene and correct this situation. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Very truly yours,

The Easton Board of Selectmen

By _____

By _____

By _____

cc: Michael L. Turcotte, Chairman of the Board
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75 Rene-Levesque Boulevard West
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Quebec, Canada H2Z 1A4

Thierry Vandal, President and Chief Executive Officer
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