

Voices of the Kearsarge-Sunapee Region

Letters printed in the *InterTown RECORD* do not necessarily reflect the opinions or views of the publisher or editor. The *InterTown RECORD* accepts signed letters with return address and daytime phone number included for verification, not for publishing. Please limit your letter to approximately 500 words. Letters are printed on a space-available basis. Letters that contain defamatory statements will be edited, with every effort given to notify the writer of the changes made. **Deadline is Saturday at 5 p.m.**

Support private property rights with the Forrester/Bragdon Amendment

To the Editor:

Tomorrow morning, the New Hampshire Senate will be taking up a very important bill, HB 648, which was written to protect private property rights. The bill is getting a lot of attention because of the proposed Northern Pass project.

HB 648 has been languishing in the Senate since June, when they decided to send it back to the Senate Judiciary Committee for further study. Last month, the committee gutted the original wording of the bill and replaced it with pages of language that do nothing to prevent private utility developers from taking your property for an optional, for-profit project. The committee's amended version actually loosens the state's eminent domain laws and puts all property owners in New Hampshire at risk.

The full Senate will be voting on HB 648 and recommendations by the committee. I urge all of your readers to contact their senators today and ask them to reject the committee's recommendation and instead pass the "Forrester/Bragdon Amendment."

What HB 648 seeks to do is amend the current RSA 371:1 which states: "No public utility may petition for permission to take private land or property rights for the construction or operation of an electric generating plant."

The Forrester/Bragdon Amendment would add: "or for any private development, including but not limited to participant-funded projects."

The language is clear. The threat of Northern Pass to property rights is real. But this isn't just about Northern Pass. It's about bringing New Hampshire's eminent domain statutes up to date with Article 12-a of the N.H. Constitution which was passed by over 85 percent of the people in 2006 in response to the Kelo vs. New London decision. It's about protecting private property from other similar projects that have already been mapped out across New Hampshire. Could you imagine 135-foot tall steel towers being run through Andover, Wilmot, New London, Sunapee, Springfield, Croydon, Newport and Claremont and many people losing their property to make way for such a project where the profit and electricity go to another state or even another country? That line has already been drawn and is on file at the Public Utilities Commission! Visit www.briantilton.com/Northern-Pass.html and scroll down the "New Hampshire Gold Rush" postings of Dec. 15-17.

Northern Pass is on record in federal filings, interviews and testimony that this project relies heavily on eminent domain. They brought it up first! One lie that has been told by

PSNH/Northern Pass lobbyists is that if HB 648 passes, there will never be another renewable energy development project in the state again.

FACT: After the adoption of Article 12-a five years ago, large new wind farms in Lempster and Dixville have been built, a major new biomass plant in Berlin has been proposed and approved, PSNH has completed its \$430 million new scrubber, and many other smaller energy developments have been successfully completed. There is obviously nothing in Article 12-a – or HB 648 – that discourages new energy projects by companies that are

willing to forego unconstitutional abuse of eminent domain.

Sen. Andy Sanborn is already on record supporting these property rights protections. Sen. Bob Odell and Sen. Matt Houde both voted in June to send the bill back to committee. Sen. Houde voted in committee to weaken our eminent domain laws. Please call both of those senators today and ask them to support private property rights with the Forrester/Bragdon Amendment.

Brian Tilton
North Sutton

Santorum Campaign happy to field calls about issues

To the Editor:

Rick Santorum's surge in recent polls has predictably surfaced elements that are "good, bad, and UGLY."

Can you believe one of the first things to appear on the internet is a letter attacking Rick for not answering a gun rights survey?

Answering a survey (or not) can not be taken to mean one thing or another about a candidate's position on something. Considering Rick's record is long and distinguished as a member of Congress, there is ample evidence of his actual stance on gun rights issues. Buck fever, talking about failure to get a good sight picture and jerking the trigger, with Senator Santorum's picture, resplendent in blaze hunting orange, was shown throughout the land hunting pheasants in Iowa! Oh, yes I get it, the letter's P.S. actually ask recipients to chip in \$10 or \$20 to


make sure every gun owning American knows where their candidates stand on the Second Amendment.

Could it be the good from this letter is my opportunity to say that Senator Rick Santorum is a life-time member of the NRA, a hunter, and strong advocate of preserving the Second Amendment? I cannot believe they did not see that orange hat?

The bad and ugly reality of this letter is that it uses the growing popularity of a serious candidate for president as a fund raiser for political activists. On the other hand, the letter has generated numerous calls to Santorum's Campaign Headquarters where his stance on all important political issues are enthusiastically answered.

Rep. Mark H. Lindsley
Henniker

Please see two more Letters to the Editor on Page 7



Ice Harvest Day


Kezar Lake • Muster Field Farm

Sunday, January 29, 2012

9 a.m. until the ice is in

North Sutton, New Hampshire

(Rain/Thaw date: February 5, 2012)



Network... Harvesting the Old... Annual Celebration at Kezar Lake, N.H. by Muster Field Farm, approx. 1987. Photograph Courtesy of Ann... [unreadable]

Gather the family, bundle up and share in a New England tradition at Kezar Lake and Muster Field Farm Museum

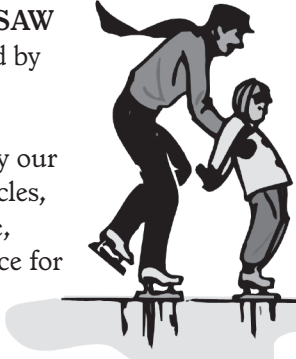
Free Admission

ICE CUTTING BY GAS POWERED SAW and finished by hand will be demonstrated by volunteers from Sutton.

THE ICE HARVEST will be loaded by our ice block fulcrum onto wagons and vehicles, then hauled to the Farm. Our Ice House, c.1890, will be fully stacked with block ice for use at all our summer events.

FOURTH ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST
7:00 AM - 10:00 AM First Free Will Baptist Church in North Sutton. Adults \$5, Children \$2.50. All you can eat plain or blueberry pancakes, local maple syrup, sausage, orange juice, coffee, tea or hot chocolate. \$1 discount if you come by snowmobile, x-c skis or snowshoes. Sponsored by the Sutton Historical Society.

RYDER CORNER SCHOOL HOUSE, c.1810, will be warm and welcoming, serving up coffee, cocoa, homemade soups and other yummys to soothe your innards.



Directions: I-89 to Exit 10 Sutton — Route 114 to North Sutton Village — Follow Signs
For additional information call (603) 927-4276 or visit www.musterfieldfarm.com

Correction

The photograph on the front page of last week's edition, showing firemen battling the blaze at Hopewell Farm in Newbury, was not taken by Christine Nelson. Linda Pho took the photograph and we apologize for the error.