

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2906

March 30, 2011

RECEIVED  
TOWN OF HOLDERNESS  
DATE: 4/5/11  
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Holderness Board Of Selectmen  
Town of Holderness  
PO Box 203  
Holderness, NH 03245-0203

Dear Holderness,

Thank you for contacting my office about the proposed Northern Pass transmission project. I appreciate hearing from you and I understand your concerns about the impact of the proposed transmission line on New Hampshire communities. In February I met with opponents of the project in Lancaster, and I will continue to work closely with the communities affected by this project.

It has been reported on some websites opposed to the transmission project that I support using federal stimulus funds to help construct the project. This statement is incorrect.

While I generally support the expansion of our transmission grid as a way to improve reliability, reduce electricity prices and connect clean energy resources to the grid, I am extremely mindful of the impact these infrastructure projects can have on communities. I believe we can modernize our electricity infrastructure and protect our way of life.

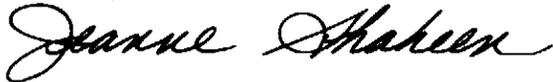
I am working to ensure that the voices of New Hampshire residents are heard throughout the federal environmental review and permitting process. After hearing concerns from New Hampshire residents, I requested that the Department of Energy hold an additional scoping meeting at Plymouth State University. My staff was present at all seven of the scoping meetings and I am pleased to hear of the strong turnout by New Hampshire residents.

I also sent a letter to Secretary of Energy Steven Chu expressing my deep concern about a potential conflict of interest involving a third party contractor in the federal environmental permitting process. I was pleased the contractor for the environmental review has been changed to avoid an appearance of a conflict of interest and ensure a fair

and thorough review process. I remain in frequent contact with the Department of Energy and will continue to closely follow the permitting process as it goes forward.

Thank you again for sharing your thoughts with me and I hope you will contact my office again with any future questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Shaheen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator

P.S. It is my priority to ensure that you receive a timely response. However, postal mail may be significantly delayed in reaching my office due to security measures in the U.S. Senate. For future communications I encourage you to email me through my website at <http://shaheen.senate.gov/contact>. Please also check my website for news and updates on my work in Washington on behalf of New Hampshire.