



New Hampshire State Senate **NEWS RELEASE**

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Sen. Forrester: HB 648 strengthens private property rights

Sen. committee to hear testimony regarding eminent domain with Northern Pass implications

(Concord) State Senator Jeanie Forrester, R- Meredith, will be one of the first people to testify at a hearing regarding legislation that will strengthen private property rights in eminent domain cases. On Thursday, the Senate Judiciary Committee is scheduled to hear public comments on HB 648, a bill with large implications for the proposed Northern Pass Project.

Forrester, a Northern Pass opponent, explained that HB 648 came as a result of the serious concerns people have voiced regarding the utility's plans to run electric transmission lines through pristine areas of the North Country and take private land to make the project a reality.

"I am proud to co-sponsor HB 648 because it will send a strong message that taking property through eminent domain will not be an option for private developers like Northern Pass," she said. "This legislation will specifically prohibit private developers from using eminent domain to seize private land for the construction of a power transmission facility."

Forrester added, "I have expressed concerns over this project since its inception. Most importantly, the very notion that a private company can be allowed to take a person's land for a private construction project runs contrary to the personal liberties we maintain such deep respect for here in New Hampshire. But HB 648's reach will go way beyond Northern Pass. It will provide protections to land owners all across the state who find themselves in a similar situation in the future."

The Senate Judiciary Committee will hear public testimony on HB 648 on Thursday, May 19th starting at 1:15pm in the Hall of Representatives at the State House.

The hearing will also be live streamed on the web at: <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us>

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