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COMMERCE, MANUFACTURING, AND TRADE

October 18, 2012

The Honorable Steven Chu
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu,

It has been brought to my attention that the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) recently submitted comments concerning a perceived conflict of interest with the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) process in selecting a third-party contractor to conduct the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Northern Pass transmission line. As you know, I have previously written expressing my concern for this transmission line that will extend from Canada into New Hampshire, as it is currently proposed. Given the importance of this matter to the state of New Hampshire and the absolute necessity for a fair and transparent process for all stakeholders, I write to seek clarification of the DOE's selection process.

To ensure public confidence in the objectivity of the application process, I am requesting a detailed explanation of the DOE selection of this EIS contractor.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your timely response. Should you have any questions, your staff may be in touch with Shawn Donilon of my office at (202) 225-5206.

Sincerely,

Charles F. Bass
Member of Congress

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