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5:22 PM TUE MAY 6, 2014

VT Governor Weighs In On Northern Pass Burial

By [SAM EVANS-BROWN](#) (/PEOPLE/SAM-EVANS-BROWN)

Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin says he stands ready to help New Hampshire find an alternative route for the controversial Northern Pass project. The governor was speaking at an event hosted by the New Hampshire Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College.

http://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net/p/nhpr/files/201405/IMG_2953.JPG

Governor Shumlin's remarks came during a question and answer period during an event hosted by The New Republic Magazine.

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Northern Pass opponents have pushed the idea of exploring burial of the transmission line along state and federal highway corridors. Will Abbot – Vice- President at the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and a vocal Northern Pass opponent – asked Shumlin if Vermont would help New Hampshire site the power line along-side interstates 91 and 93.

Shumlin responded that in principal he's open to the idea.

"The problem with using interstate corridors is that there's federal – I think not very well thought out – federal obstacles to allowing us to do that," Shumlin told a crowd of EPA regulators, energy insiders and members of the public. "If anyone can get it done it's Governor Hassan, myself, and others. We would love to find solutions to get our southern neighbors the juice they need without destroying our pristine forests."

Vermont [already imports](#)

<http://archive.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20110418/NEWS03/110418018/Board-approves-power-deal-Hydro-Quebec>) around a quarter of its electricity from Hydro-Quebec, and is [exploring strengthening its connection](http://digital.vpr.net/post/shumlin-explores-more-power-hydro-quebec) (<http://digital.vpr.net/post/shumlin-explores-more-power-hydro-quebec>) with the Canadian utility to bring down even more hydro-power.

Correction: A previous version of this article said that Will Abbot is the President of the Forest Society. He is in fact the Vice President for Policy and Land Management

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