



September 5, 2016

Senator Edward J. Markey
Office of Senator Markey
975 JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street
Boston, MA 02203

Re: FERC and the siting of Sudbury to Hudson Transmission Line Project

Dear Senator Markey,

I am writing on behalf of Protect Sudbury, Inc., (www.protectsudbury.org) to ask you to help the residents of Sudbury, Hudson and Stow influence FERC, ISO-NE, Eversource, and the Baker administration to reject the proposed siting of a new high voltage transmission line along an abandoned MBTA right-of-way which would decimate our neighborhoods, protected local and federal conservation land, and threaten our water supply. The proposed route has obvious flaws in terms of unacceptable environmental and economic impacts and should be discarded. Other viable solutions exist to address the reliability need at reasonable, comparable costs to ratepayers, with significantly less environmental and economic impact to the affected communities.

Since Eversource unveiled their flawed plan to the communities in March of this year, negative feedback caused them to 'hit the pause button'. We formed grassroots organization Protect Sudbury, united with our local Board of Selectmen in opposition to Eversource's proposal. We have met with state Representative Gentile and state Senators Eldridge and Barrett. We have met with Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Matthew Beaton. We have met with our Attorney General's Office Energy and Environment Bureau Chief Melissa Hoffer and Deputy Chief Rebecca Tepper.

We have supported state legislation to adjust the criteria by which the Energy Facilities Siting Board evaluates projects, to clarify the value of the environment and communities. We attended debate on the Senate version of the Omnibus Energy Bill, which included two amendments relative to the EFSB, which were unfortunately withdrawn. We contacted Speaker DeLeo, and the Chairs Sen. Downing and Rep. Golden, and members of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy, where House-sponsored legislation sat in committee.

Unfortunately, we were told the legislation 'did not have the support of the leadership' and it died.

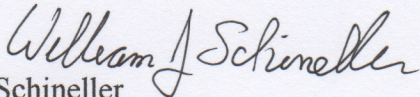
After months of asking for a meeting with Eversource decision-makers, on August 25 Eversource met with Protect Sudbury. To our dismay, they presented a revised proposal which still leads with preferred route along the MBTA right-of-way (RoW). They stated they cannot eliminate this cheapest-construction-cost, but most egregious, environmentally damaging option, because of FERC. They stated that the decision of who would pay localized costs if a less environmentally damaging option were chosen "is up to FERC." In short, they are still pushing a bad, short-sighted plan, passing responsibility to FERC, and ultimately passing the financial burden and environmental impacts onto the shoulders of a few impacted communities.

Senator Markey, it has become clear to me that we need your leadership from Washington to steer decision-making on supposed FERC-mandated projects like this one toward solutions that are more forward looking and consider the cost to the environment and communities as well as build cost.

I urge you to stand with Sudbury and neighboring Hudson and Stow as we work to prevent Eversource from using the MBTA RoW for this project. In the 1960's Senator Ted Kennedy and Massachusetts Governor Francis Sargent helped preserve Sudbury from an identical Boston Edison project that would have been located in what is today the Great Meadows Wildlife refuge. With your leadership, I hope we can steer Eversource toward a better solution, which addresses electric grid issues and avoids irreparable damage.

I invite you to speak with me personally, and to attend upcoming meetings we have with elected officials on 9/12 and with our community on 9/22. Please contact me at 508-308-5921 to schedule.

Yours respectfully,



Bill Schineller
37 Jarman Road
Sudbury, MA 01776

Director and Government Liaison, Protect Sudbury Inc.
govt@protectsudbury.org or bschineller@yahoo.com