



KATHERINE M. CLARK  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
5TH DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

October 18, 2016

Governor Charlie Baker  
Office of the Governor  
Massachusetts State House  
Room 280  
Boston, MA 02133

Re: Sudbury to Hudson Transmission Reliability Project

Governor Baker,

We are writing to share the serious concerns raised by our constituents regarding the proposed Sudbury to Hudson Transmission Reliability Project. As a mandated project, we are supportive of strengthening the regional electric grid and do not dismiss the demand for more reliable service, but not at the expense of creating potentially lasting damage to the environment, significant economic burdens, and potential health concerns.

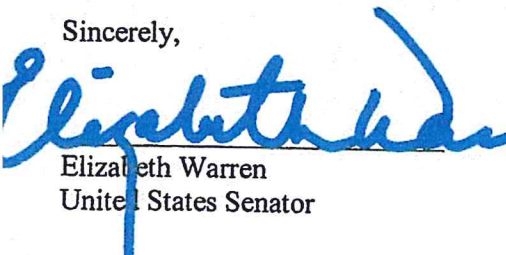
We have heard from residents of Sudbury and Hudson, their respective Boards of Selectmen, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Friends of the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge, and area conservation and historical commissions. All are voicing serious concerns about the project and the preferred Eversource route, which would run 4.3 miles of high voltage above-ground power lines alongside neighborhoods, conservation land, and along a National Wildlife Refuge, while spraying herbicides within close proximity of hundreds of homes.


Our understanding is that the preferred Eversource route would require installation of overhead transmission lines and an 82-foot wide clear-cut of the vegetation and growth currently present in the area. The above environmental organizations have conveyed that this would be disruptive to the habitat and that it could potentially create conditions "*unsuitable for certain wildlife species, many of which are State-listed or special concern species.*" They have also expressed concern that the above ground transmission lines could interrupt periodic burning that serves as an important and necessary habitat management tool and adversely impact the outdoor experience for visitors.

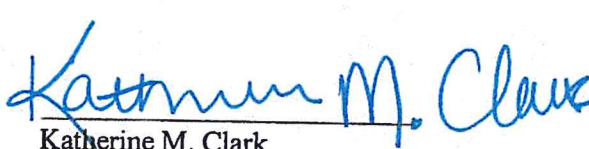
The Hudson and Sudbury Selectboards have raised concerns we would like to reiterate regarding the subsequent impact the project could have on the towns' equalized value and levy ceiling, combined with the potential costs associated with remediation to mitigate environmental damage from the project, could negatively impact town budgets, resulting in decreased funding for needed programs, services and infrastructure. Additionally, potential health concerns for residents, specific to the contamination of the drinking water supply resulting from the required spraying of chemicals, have also been raised.

It is our sincere hope that your office will give all due consideration to the issues raised in this letter and will continue to work to address the concerns of all communities impacted by the Eversource Sudbury to Hudson Transmission Reliability Project.

Sincerely,

  
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator

  
Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress

  
Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress