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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

CHAIR
Committee on Public Health

June 29, 2017

The Honorable Matthew A. Beaton
Secretary, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Attn: MEPA Office
Page Czepiga, EEA No. 15703
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Sudbury-Hudson Transmission Reliability Project

Dear Secretary Beaton,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposed Sudbury-Hudson Transmission Reliability Project. As the state Representative for the Third Middlesex District, which includes the towns of Hudson and Stow, I appreciate the efforts of Eversource Energy to improve the delivery of power to our region. However, as was communicated in a March 2016 letter from Senator Jamie Eldridge, Representative Carmine Gentile, and me, the detrimental impacts of Eversource's chosen method to improving the system's reliability – the company's Primary Route - are too significant to overlook. As MEPA seeks to identify alternative measures, consistent with the project's purpose, that would avoid these impacts, I offer my support for the Noticed Alternative Route.

After meeting with dozens of concerned constituents, including abutters to the proposed Primary Route, I believe the cited impacts to our natural environment should be weighed heavily and with great consideration for the residents who cherish this land. As noted in the March 2016 letter, "over the past few decades, residents have proactively voted to protect open space along the proposed route, and state and federal agencies, and elected officials, have gone to great lengths to protect this area from development." However, according to the Corrected Environmental Notification Form, the Primary Route, which would install an underground electric transmission line within the existing Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority railroad corridor, calls for clear-cutting a 30-foot-wide path of trees and shrubs – disturbing protected habitats for rare species as well as cultural resources along the route. As a state Representative for this region, and as a local resident who has spent time enjoying the very conservation land that would be affected, I maintain that the potential damage the proposed project would inflict on our wildlife is deserving of the office's utmost scrutiny.

As MEPA reviews this project through the Environmental Impact Report process, I implore you to consider the Noticed Alternative Route, comprised of an entirely underground route within public roads in the towns of Hudson, Stow, and Sudbury. This clear and reasonable alternative would remove the threat to our much-loved protected lands by avoiding the railroad corridor altogether.

Thank you for your consideration. If you should need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate Hogan".

Kate Hogan
State Representative
Third Middlesex District