

> Thank you for the opportunity to speak before the ~~Public Utilities~~ ^{North Country Transmission} Commission. My name is Pip Decker and I work at Noble Environmental Power, a renewable energy company with over 726 mega-watts of wind-power capacity operating nationwide.

> I serve as the project manager for the Granite Reliable Power Windpark, a ninety-nine mega-watt windpark that recently received its certificate of site and facility from the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee.

> Noble Environmental Power reaffirms its ^{you have} support for upgrading what is known as the "Coos Loop". We applaud the work of the transmission ^{Commission} ~~took four~~ and appreciate the diligence ~~the committee has~~ shown in working towards a solution. A positive outcome will create jobs, increase the state's renewable energy capacity and encourage continued investment in Coos County.

> In 2007, New Hampshire set the road map by which renewable energy projects could safely chart their course. The Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) HB 873, streamlining of the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee process for renewable projects below 120MW, SB 140, and the municipal agreement law known as SB99 reinforced the notion that New Hampshire was serious about renewable energy.

> Since that time, Noble Environmental has invested over \$6 million dollars in the development of the Granite Reliable Power Windpark—a high portion of these monies were expended in the hiring of local services—surveyors, engineers, environmental specialists—within Coos County to support our effort. In his economic impact analysis report, Economics Professor Ross Gittell of the University of New Hampshire, estimates that over a 20 year period, the Granite Reliable Power Windpark will bring \$122 Million Dollars of economic activity to Coos County.

Upgrading the Coos Loop will be yet another signal to renewable developers to continue to invest money in Coos County. Doing so will further strengthen the state's green infrastructure and help New Hampshire achieve its renewable portfolio standard goals.

> We appreciate the opportunity to speak here today.