

Next order of business: a carbon tax

Anyone who regularly reads the Concord Monitor of New Hampshire sensed that permitting for the Northern Pass project wasn't going to be a slam-dunk. Guarantees that it would be built quickly were pregame trash talk. In Nebraska, landowning ranchers and environmentalists of all political stripes united against the Keystone XL pipeline. In Georgia, landowners and environmentalists have pushed their state to call a timeout for more than one pipeline. [In New Hampshire](#), landowners, environmentalists, leaders of 29 towns along the route, and 95 percent of statements received from individuals opposed the plan.

Massachusetts wasted valuable time choosing a losing plan.

Instead, our government should enact a carbon tax to encourage residents to decide how they'll lower their transportation emissions. It would also push homeowners and businesses to decide how to use less heating oil and gas.

Unfortunately, humans need a carbon tax to push us to reduce our carbon footprints. We don't do what's good for us without a coach reminding us.

Also, as a carbon tax cuts transportation and heating emissions, it would reduce pressure to make electricity decisions.

Let's send the utilities back to the drawing board for more in-state renewables projects and already-permitted out-of-state projects.

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