Resolve, To Provide for Participation of the State in the Planning and Negotiations for the Atlantic Loop Energy Project

(EMERGENCY)
Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the Government of Canada in the 2020 Speech from the Throne announced the Atlantic Loop, a project that will create a continuous transmission and power supply interconnection among the 5 provinces and will pass through Maine; and

Whereas, the Atlantic Loop can provide the State with access to renewable power supply originating in the affected Canadian provinces as well as access to Canadian markets for renewable power supply developed and sited in Maine; and

Whereas, the State has an interest in the project identical to that of the 5 provinces and will be affected in the same manner; and

Whereas, the Atlantic Loop, which will have a direct effect on the State, is being actively pursued with a view to arriving at early agreements soon for its creation; and

Whereas, ensuring access and treatment for the State's customers, transmission operators and power suppliers equal to that accorded to the 5 provinces is an objective of the State and is attainable by the use of its regulatory and other authorities to represent the economic and environmental interests of the State in the negotiations; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore, be it

Sec. 1. State to request participation in Atlantic Loop planning and negotiations. Resolved: That the Governor shall inform the Prime Minister of Canada and the premiers of the provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Quebec that the State has a direct interest in all aspects of the Canadian project, referred to in this resolve as "the Atlantic Loop," to link the electric grids of the provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Quebec for the purpose of increasing access to renewable power supply and requests participation on an equal footing in the negotiations relative to its creation, operation and management.

Sec. 2. State to develop and pursue policies promoting and facilitating participation in the Atlantic Loop. Resolved: That, in participating in the planning and negotiations on the Atlantic Loop, the Governor, assisted by such state agencies and other interested parties as the Governor designates, shall develop and pursue policies, consistent with state law, designed to maximize the benefits that all affected parties in the State can obtain from it.

Sec. 3. Governor to inform the Legislature. Resolved: That the Governor shall report not less than once every 3 months to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over electric utility matters on the status and substance of the State's involvement in all matters relative to the Atlantic Loop.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation takes effect when approved.
SUMMARY

This resolve provides for the immediate, direct involvement of the State in the planning and negotiations on the Atlantic Loop, a Canadian electric transmission and power supply project intended to pass through the State, enabling possible participation in it on an equal footing with the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Quebec.