



# 129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

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Legislative Document

No. 640

S.P. 202

In Senate, February 7, 2019

**Resolve, To Require a Study of Greenhouse Gas Emissions  
Reductions from the Proposed Central Maine Power Company  
Transmission Corridor**

(EMERGENCY)

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Reference to the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator CARSON of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representative RYKERSON of Kittery and  
Senators: BELLOWS of Kennebec, BLACK of Franklin, CLAXTON of Androscoggin,  
FARRIN of Somerset, FOLEY of York, Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, FAY of  
Raymond, TUCKER of Brunswick.

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

3           **Whereas,** Central Maine Power Company has promoted its proposed western Maine  
4 transmission corridor, the New England Clean Energy Connect project, or NECEC, as a  
5 means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions but has not provided adequate evidence to  
6 the public and decision makers; and

7           **Whereas,** Department of Environmental Protection rule Chapter 375: No Adverse  
8 Environmental Effect Standards of the Site Location of Development Act requires that  
9 projects cause no unreasonable alteration of climate, but the department has not  
10 performed an independent analysis of the greenhouse gas effects of the NECEC and has  
11 no plans to do so; and

12           **Whereas,** the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3132 requires the Public  
13 Utilities Commission to consider the environmental effects of proposed transmission line  
14 projects, but the commission has not performed an independent analysis of greenhouse  
15 gas effects of the NECEC and has no plans to do so; and

16           **Whereas,** climate change poses a substantial threat to Maine's economy, natural  
17 resources and public health, including from increased spread of insect-borne diseases,  
18 more frequent damaging storms, elevated sea levels and warming oceans; and

19           **Whereas,** 53 miles of new, 150-foot-wide transmission corridor through western  
20 Maine would fragment the largest expanse of intact temperate hardwood and mixed forest  
21 in the world; and

22           **Whereas,** Maine's natural resources agencies have expressed serious concern about  
23 the transmission corridor's harm to brook trout, deer and other species; and

24           **Whereas,** the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee concluded that there  
25 would be no reduction in greenhouse gases from Northern Pass, a similar project to the  
26 NECEC, unless Hydro-Quebec builds new facilities to increase generating capacity to  
27 supply electricity to Massachusetts; and

28           **Whereas,** Hydro-Quebec's application to Massachusetts to supply energy via the  
29 NECEC specifically states that the NECEC will not result in any new construction of  
30 facilities to increase generating capacity; and

31           **Whereas,** Maine people and decision makers need concrete, verifiable, publicly  
32 available information about the greenhouse gas reductions or lack of reductions  
33 associated with the NECEC in order to make an informed decision on whether to support  
34 the project; and

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

