

Carole L. Getchell  
Corinth, ME 04427

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Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology  
131<sup>st</sup> Maine Legislature, Second Regular Session  
Augusta, ME 04333

**RE: LD 2205** Resolve, to require the PUC to Initiate a Feasibility Study to Evaluate Transmission Technologies and Siting Locations for Any Future Electric Transmission Line Proposed Pursuant to the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program.

Dear Sen. Mark Lawrence, Rep. S. Paige Zeigler, and esteemed Committee members,

My name is Carole Getchell. My husband and I have lived in Corinth for the past 35 years on ten acres of +mostly wooded property which hosts abundant wildlife including deer, fox, coyotes, bear, frogs, toads, salamanders, owls, wild turkeys, pileated woodpeckers, many other avian species, and etc. Each adds to a thriving ecosystem which we treasure and protect.

We received a letter from LS Power Grid Maine, postmarked June 22, 2023, referencing a proposed 345 kV transmission line which “may extend approximately 175 miles” pursuant to the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program. The letter stated “The Project may impact property that you own depending on the route chosen.” At a later open house we learned the corridor rights of way would be 150’ wide and contain poles 90’-160’ tall from Glenwood Plantation to Coopers Mills. Land owner stakeholders along this proposed corridor were stunned and devastated. As a result, many towns have adopted moratoriums and are working to create ordinances. The PUC terminated the agreement with LS Power in December but it’s reported the PUC will accept new bids for the project.

A feasibility study for this transmission project, *by an impartial party*, is of utmost importance. Socio-economic and environmental impacts in a project of this magnitude have potential to permanently change rural Maine life.

A feasibility study should include at least: cost, resiliency and reliability of **buried lines versus overhead lines, and each with the use of existing corridors, including highways**. Within each type of construction, the following should also be included:

1. Socioeconomic concerns such as devaluation of stakeholders’ and abutters’ property, including homesteads, farms, tree growths, hay fields, etc. and the impact of those with mortgages;
2. Quality of life concerns such as issues with herbicides, electromagnetic field effects, visual impacts of ugly transmission line towers, and etc.;
3. Consequences of ecological and wildlife habitat loss.

Thank you for reading my testimony.

Carole L. Getchell