

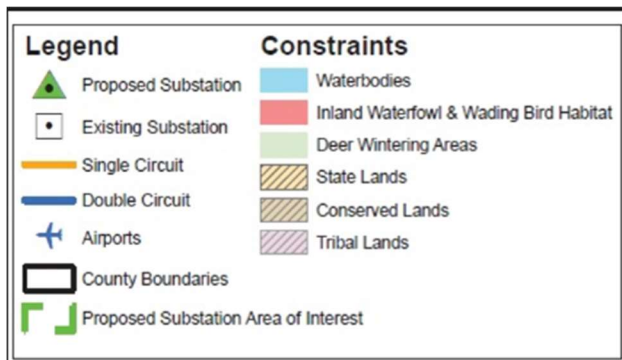
2/20/24 Testimony in Favor

LD 2205 Resolve, to Require the Public Utilities Commission 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

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology:

I am John O'Donnell, a small farmer in Unity and am in favor of this bill with the underground amendments. I was a landowner who would have been affected by the original LS Power transmission line and am glad that it was cancelled.

In the process of a landowner meeting with LS Power on the original plan, I couldn't help but notice a legend of constraints on all their maps:



What became apparent to me is that this company was either told or took it upon themselves to stay away from good possibilities on state land or conservation land. This is outrageous.

Many Maine citizens like me are becoming alarmed at the ongoing attacks on private property, one of the most basic rights of this

country. My point is that conservation groups, private contractors, and regulators of this questionable buildout of alternative energy and this power line will not respect the rights of landowners without specifications from the legislature. For that reason, this bill is needed to identify ways to minimize the taking of private property by looking at underground burial, and the use of all existing corridors, including state and or federal land.

Also, putting a project out for bid without fairly specific guidelines is unheard of in the private sector, why would you repeat the mistakes of last year by letting the companies do what they want? The low bidder may always be taking private property in that case. That is another reason to do a feasibility study as in this bill.

I don't favor making this study about other projects also, although it may be a great example to use in other projects. A wider scope will take longer, and the green energy people will be screaming bloody murder about delays in their project. I like the idea of keeping the research specific to this project. There are two reasons for this. One, technology is changing. A huge breakthrough next year may allow places like Massachusetts to easily create energy near their users. Also, a larger concentration of people is learning that the Climate Change agenda is full of bad science and outright lies and the risk of great political pushback may come sooner rather than later, derailing many of these projects.

Sincerely, John O'Donnell, Landowner, Unity