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LD 596

Thank you members of the energy, utilities and technology committee for reading my testimony. I represent Haskell Farm in Palermo, I have met with local Representatives concerning the Aroostook renewable gateway because my family farm land fell into two of the proposed routes through central Maine before the proposed line meets with the Maxcy's mills substation. Both of these route alternatives cross expansive western facing views right in the ideal vantage point. With that said I oppose any legislation that will push this project through. It will permanently scar our land if either of these routes go through and discourage my family from continuing to farm or maintain any of these lands. I also believe that members who approve of this feel like this is being done for our own good whether we understand it or not, that were ignorant, and our lives are going to end because of climate change soon if we don't do something. I also feel like it benefits our southern New England neighbors more than it benefits us like so many other controversial utility related projects in Maine currently.

My wife works in the solar industry and I'm not opposed to solar, but to permanently scar a large portion of northern Maine with wind turbines to line the pockets of a few large private equity firms is a bad idea. I also believe there was a study done to show that this is also not going to positively affect our utility bills at home. So why the constant push to get this jammed through no matter who it affects? I think there are a lot of people who stand to benefit from this and it isn't the constituents that you represent.

I am open to give tours of the possible affected areas if any of you are willing to take the time. I particularly would like to invite Troy Jackson who originally pushed a bill through with no knowledge of where a line would go, how much it would cost, and this current bill has no known generation source.

Thank you for your time and consideration