

Tessa Burpee  
Brewer  
LD 596

I am writing to express my opposition to LD 596.

This bill has no information on where the lines will be located, which is of great concern as a landowner in Maine. My family's farm has been in our family since 1885. I have friends throughout northern and central Maine who farm, have homesteads and are vibrant members of their rural communities. Which of us will be affected? We have no way to rally, no way to have a collective voice or input at this stage of the game and if this bill is passed, what would be our recourse? My understanding is that there are some steps in the process of obtaining permits that are open to the public, but they are much harder for the public to participate in.

So it is here, in committee, where we appeal to you, our elected representatives, to say no to this blank check.

When voters approved a referendum in 2021 requiring legislative approval of high voltage transmission lines, I doubt any of us intended that to be done with no information on the location, budget, benefit or environmental cost. This has to be stopped until there is more information available for the public to consider.

Please vote ought not to pass on LD 596.