

Chair Lawrence, Chair Sachs and Esteemed Members of the EUT Committee

I am in support of LD 469 **An Act to Prioritize State Access to Electricity Generated in Canada via High-impact Electric Transmission Lines**

But wonder if it is achievable.

This bill's intent is admirable. Power going through our state shall provide half its output to Maine electric customers. But reality as it is, Maine participates in a regional network with the other five New England States and abides by the rules established by the network manager, ISO-NE.

ISO-NE operates the New England grid. It does not pick the generation resources or the origination of generation that wants entry into the grid. It traffics the generation flows by a rigid set of tariffs.

These tariffs seek to provide the least cost, reliable electricity throughout New England.

Think of electricity as a pond with many streams feeding a certain amount of water at any given time to this pond, while, instantaneously water is drawn from this pond to meet the customer demand for water. The pond's water level is a factor of this demand and rises and falls, accordingly.

ISO-NE performs complex calculations to assure everyone drawing from this pond gets the amount of water they request. The grid contains the mixture of all generation inputs, physically. As entities draw from the grid, it is from the mixture of generation with no favor to a particular, single generation source. No generation is sorted out to a selected locale by political desires. It is performed by economic principles and limitations inherent to the grid infrastructure.

This is the physical nature of the grid.

The other aspect of grid power derives from the purchasing of particular, single generation sources such as a wind plant, a nuclear plant or from the collective output from an abutting state or country.

The most common reasons a state would want to purchase power from selected generation is to hedge costs by contract or by desire to obtain a particular generation resource to comply with government policies. These purchasing contracts are usually designated generally in statutes and administered by regulatory authorities. In no way do these purchases change the instantaneous physics of the grid, but, over time and great costs to ratepayers they can change the generation resources feeding the grid.

This is the commerce nature of the grid, or as I call it, the perversion of the grid.

As long as Maine competitive energy providers buy wholesale electricity from the ISO-NE operated grid, physically it is a mixture of all generation resource elements.

Respectively Clayton McKay Dixfield

