

To: the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
From: Richard Barringer, PhD
Re: L.D 640 – Resolve, To Require a Study of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions from the NECEC
Date: March 15, 2017

Dear Gentlepersons,

I write to express in the strongest possible terms my opposition to LD 640.

Passage of this bill will eliminate the region's best opportunity in the near term to address climate change. There is no reasonable question about the NECEC's reducing greenhouse gas emissions. After months of analysis, the Governor's Energy Office, Conservation Law Foundation, Union of Concerned Scientists, and Acadia Institute have all determined that the GHG reductions are real and substantial. The few individuals and organizations that oppose this finding are unalterably opposed to the project, and look to LD 640 as a clever vehicle to kill the project.

I cannot exaggerate the harm LD 640 would do to the regulatory and legislative processes in Maine, not to mention our State's reputation elsewhere. Please do not succumb to organized pressure. Do the right thing for the State of Maine and New England, and let the regulatory process move forward without interference from the Legislature.

Sincerely yours, Richard Barringer (former Maine Commissioner of Conservation and Director of State Planning, and Founding Director of the Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service at USM)

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