



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **Katrina J. Smith**

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### **LD 1963 - OUGHT NOT TO PASS**

Good afternoon Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and esteemed members of the Energy, Utility and Technology Committee. My name is Katrina Smith and I represent District 62, the communities of China, Palermo, Windsor, Somerville and Hibberts Gore. I am here to testify Ought Not to Pass on LD 1963.

I have grave concerns about this amendment and its seemingly carte blanche approach to allowing any type of transmission line to be built in Maine in the quest for elusive clean energy and an economic boom focused solely on Aroostook county. This past summer LS Power, at the time the chosen transmission line provider, came to the towns I represent in their attempt to procure land to build the transmission line for the Aroostook County wind farm. It was a shocking disaster for the people I represent. I can unequivocally say that it is a grave mistake to have legislation approved that has little to no detail, guidelines or notification to the people who will be affected by this amendment.

The following are examples of how the transmission line, again without any specifics, came to my towns and threatened to destroy their ways of life and their livelihoods. There is Ron and Sheila, who live in Windsor, and found themselves now facing a future in which their home was going to be completely surrounded by high voltage transmission lines. Ron and Sheila and their Amish neighbors had accepted that they lived near the current line that goes to one of the largest substations in New England, but being surrounded, being completely boxed, in by high voltage lines, struck fear in their hearts.

The transmission lines were also going to destroy the farmland of my district. I had people like Jesse from Palermo, whose family legacy is hundreds of acres of beautiful fields that provide hay for their dairy operation and the employment of many of their family members. Their land also provides unspeakable joy to the residents of Palermo and China who can park alongside the land and cast eyes upon beautiful sunsets with gorgeous western Mountain views. This farmland and this view were to be destroyed by a randomly placed transmission line running right through it.

My constituents were never notified that the legislature was pondering how their land and their lives were going to be impacted, the same thing that seems to be happening with this bill. Aroostook county may have its struggles, but all of Maine is struggling and we can't favor one economically disadvantaged district over another.

Why are the people of Maine forgotten in this quest for clean energy? Why does legislation like LD 1963 come without specifics of who and how the lives of all Mainers will be impacted? Why are legacies ruined and woods

District 62 China, Hibberts Gore Township, Palermo, Somerville, and Windsor

being destroyed by the whims of a company given authority to disrupt our lives while they seek a profit, set free to advance something Mainers never asked for.

It is said this is all for science, but my constituents, both Democrat and Republicans, ask what about the science of EMFs and their danger to humans, what about the science of drilling into our earth when there are aquifers that contain PFAS ready to spill out and contaminate more wells? What about the science of disturbing bogs and meadows where our wildlife thrives?

I speak directly for my constituents, again both Democrat and Republican, when I say that we demand more specificity regarding routes and impact before this bill is approved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katrina J. Smith".

Katrina J. Smith  
State Representative