John O'Donnell Unity, Maine January 11, 2024

Testimony regarding the Proposed Amendment to LD 1963

Chairman Lawrence, Chairman Zeigler and Honorable Persons of the EUT Committee

I have small farm acreage in Unity Maine where a 10-acre field would have been ruined by one of the proposed routes in the previous LS Power proposal. There were many other farm properties along the routes that would have been adversely affected as well. This was never revealed or explained before the previous contract was awarded.

I am not an expert in power generation or distribution, but I have definite feelings about this drunken rush into "renewable" power that we a bombarded with by the press and government every day. I know there are many people in Aroostook as well as the rest of the state that have no voice and see this whole thing as a sham.

The first go around at receiving and choosing proposals didn't seem to specify any requirements for detailed long term financial benefits of these projects that would be available to the public. There were only "suggestions" to use existing corridors in the original bill. There were no limitations on using eminent domain. There were no limitations on the ruination of farmland to feed us. Nothing seems to ask for investigating underground transmission. I can only ask lawmakers to consider these issues before voting on this bill.

The proposed bill talks about greenhouse gas emissions as if it is a given. I can tell you that many Maine citizens and legislators question this whole agenda coming out of the bowels of European world regulatory agencies. The only thing we know about these agencies is that they want radical population reduction. They want to transfer control of these issues to international regulatory agencies outside of any national government control. They are using stealth agendas to ruin the way of life that rural people like in Maine have had. Destroying their food systems, buying up control of private property or ruining private property with solar farms, wind farms, and overhead power lines are just part of the picture.

Please in your deliberations consider the rural people of Maine and consider any impact to small farms and property owners that these projects seem to target. Am I asking you to help save small farms when other agencies are tasked with that? Yes. A drive around rural Maine and it's decaying farms shows us that these farms have no effective advocate.