

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

LD 2087

An Act to prevent Eminent Domain

January 23, 2024

It is a wonderful idea to address the issue of eminent domain in the wake of the recent attempt of LS Power to take over two thousand acres of beautiful central and northern Maine land for high voltage transmission lines. Maine presently has some of the weakest eminent domain laws in the country - from the point of view of protection of the landowner.

Unfortunately, this bill, as written, probably cannot stand up to any real legal opposition. In order for this bill to pass, it needs to be amended and strengthened, but still allow eminent domain as an option.

Minnesota has some strong eminent domain laws in which the entire property must be purchased at the best real estate prices. Relocation costs could be included as well. Or how about what Iowa has done - requiring the utility to secure 75% of the easement before eminent domain would kick in?

My personal property was not affected by the LS Power threat, but I was shocked and horrified that such a proposal could even become a reality - affecting many friends and neighbors and destroying the beauty of central Maine,

Thank you in advance for your sincere efforts to protect Maine property owners with a stronger eminent domain bill.

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