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I am writing in support of LD 471, An Act To Require Legislative Approval for Certain Leases of Public Lands. Our land is Maine's chief asset, reaping rewards in tourism and our own quality of life, as residents. Unfortunately, the state has a poor track record of managing state land for the public good. Some recent examples:

- In 2014, the State signed a lease with Central Maine Power for 36 acres that bisect a parcel of public land in Somerset County between Johnson Mountain and Wilson Pond for construction of the NECEC Corridor.
- In 2015, yet another backroom deal was brokered with CMP, this time for \$3,600 per year, or \$100 per acre.
- A third secret lease was again negotiated by the current administration in 2020, again without the required legislative approval.

Russel Black's proposed Act To Require Legislative Approval for Certain Leases of Public Lands would steer the state back towards a more democratic, more public-minded management of public lands and hopefully put an end to these back-room deals.