

Jen Blood
Phippsburg

According to Article IX, Section 23 of the Maine Constitution, "State park land, public lots or other real estate held by the State for conservation or recreation purposes and designated by legislation implementing this section may not be reduced or its uses substantially altered except on the vote of 2/3 of all the members elected to each House."

Yet, in 2014 the Bureau of Parks and Lands issued a lease to Central Maine Power for its corridor across two lots in Western Maine. This was done with no public hearing, and was subsequently revised in both 2015 and 2020 - also, with no public hearings. Despite the law very clearly stating that a 2/3 majority of the Legislature is required for this lease to be valid, no such vote has ever been taken.

The CMP Corridor would cut through 150 acres of this land, fragmenting native habitat and causing disruption to wildlife and recreation alike. It is critical that BPL be held accountable for this lapse, and it must be made clear that BPL must get the requisite 2/3 majority from the Legislature for the CMP corridor and any future projects that may prove detrimental to the land.