

To: Joint Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Maine Legislature

From: Anthony J. Donovan, Portland, Maine

Date: March 12, 2021

Re: **Vote Ought NOT to Pass LD 471**

An Act to Require Legislative Approval for Certain Leases of Public

Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil, members of the Committee

My name is Tony Donovan. I am a resident of Portland Maine. For the past 12 years I served in Leadership of the nations' foremost environmental organization. Today I do not speak for any organization. I speak for myself as a life-long environmentalist and advocate for clean energy. **I stand in strict opposition to the extraction, production, and transmission of Fossil fuels.** My support for Clean Energy and How it is transmitted is why I oppose limitations to our ability to access this form of energy.

I am also very much opposed to retroactive government actions designed to circumvent approvals as in the Leases subject to this legislation.

The number One criteria in determining approval of any energy project, must be its impact on the Climate and Climate Change. I support Hydro-Québec and the current proposal for a transmission line for hydropower from Canada to Lewiston Maine. A thorough review of alternatives is clear we must allow this hydropower energy into the New England utility grid.

Please Consider:

In his 2011 Beyond Coal campaign, NY billionaire Michael Bloomberg and major environmentalists successfully shut down hyper-polluting coal-fired electrical generating plants nationwide. The success of this campaign closed coal-fired electric power-generation plants across the country. **But a replacement source was needed to fuel electric utility plants.** The nation turned to "natural" gas as a "clean" alternative.

The problem is natural gas is anything but clean, and far from natural. Extraction of the gas is now recognized as one of the most serious impacts on the environment ever. The gas is 90% methane, the rest being ethane, propane and/or butane. The stuff that gets to your home "is almost pure methane." This Gas is extracted from the earth through hydro-fracking, a method that pollutes land and water, causing earthquakes everywhere it is employed, with poisonous runoff killing livestock and agriculture. **Fracked Methane Gas is transported through pipelines that destroy the natural landscape in their construction.** These pipes are leaking methane: minor leaks that can be detected on every street in America, and major leaks that cause invisible blooms that are poisoning all the area around them. Or they actually explode, causing property damage and human deaths.

The Fossil Fuel Industry Pipeline plans to move massive amounts of gas extracted from the Marcellus Shale fracking operations in northeastern Pennsylvania via pipelines into New England to fuel Electric Power Plants. Industry estimates 1.9 trillion cubic feet can be extracted from this Pennsylvania location. The Northeast United States is a prime market for selling this gas for home heating and to fuel electric power utility plants throughout New England – Maine included. The energy and its pipeline corridors for transmission are far more deadly to the Climate than industrial Hydro-Power.

In Maine, the Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, opened in 1999 to export gas from Sable Island, offshore of New Brunswick CA, through to the US markets. Sable Island gas is now in decline, and the pipeline can flow bi-directional. Since 2015 this pipeline has been reversed and is primarily an importer of fracked gas from the US to Canada. The reversal mechanism connects the Pennsylvania Methane gas pipelines through Maine to distribution in the Canadian provinces, and to that country's Liquefied Natural Gas facility in New Brunswick for export.

We need to make an energy choice. Sacrifice needs to be made. We must not impeded access to hydro-power. Either allow methane gas in pipelines to flow into and through New England to power our needs, destroy our landscape and burn in our air. **Or allow existing industrial hydro-dams to generate the power with energy that does not release carbon and burn methane, and in fact is clean energy.**

I end here to ask that those acting to stop or delay this NECEC should consider that there is much more at play here than cutting a corridor through Maine woods. The Climate is at stake.

Vote Ought NOT to Pass LD 471

Anthony J. Donovan

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Train Time

End

Anthony Donovan
Portland, Maine

see attached Vote Ought NOT to Pass LD 471
please confirm receipt to MeLikesRail@Gmail.com