

Testimony before the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry supporting passage of LD 471 “An Act to Require Legislative Approval for certain leases on Public Land”

March 17,2021

Senator Dill, Representative O’Neill and honorable Members of the Commission on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry:

My name is Mary Finn and I am a resident of Saco. I submit this testimony in support of LD 471. I am a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club, and an avid hiker, skier, and camper and my family loves spending time in the woods of Maine along with millions of visitors to Maine each year. I feel that it is my responsibility as a resident of Maine, and all of our responsibilities as stewards of the public lands of Maine, to ensure that this land is preserved in a way that will benefit all of us. I believe that any altering of public lands such as building high transmission lines, landing strips, pipelines and railroad tracks alter the use of the land that is now being enjoyed by the people of Maine and our visitors. Maine people that use this land are hikers, campers, and those who love the serenity of nature. Other users such as snowmobilers, hunters, anglers, and Maine guides and guests to our state, and Maine businesses all benefit from public lands, for our sanity and livelihoods, in its present state.

LD 471 will protect Public Lands from illegal backroom deals and allow Maine people, through their elected legislators, to vote on the altering Public Land. Public Lands should be overseen by the public. I would greatly appreciate your support on bringing this law forward for a vote.

Sincerely,

Mary Finn