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I'm writing to ask you to support LD 471, "An Act to Require Legislative Approval for Certain Leases of Public Lands, thereby holding Central Maine Power accountable to Maine's Constitution and to the people of Maine.

In 2014, the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands issued a lease to CMP for its corridor on the Johnson Mountain and West Forks Plantation lots in western Maine, and revised it twice, all with no public notice and without requiring a 2/3 vote of the legislature as required by article IX, section 23 of the Maine Constitution.

Intended for the protection of public lands such as these, this section states:

"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. The proceeds from the sale of such land must be used to purchase additional real estate in the same county for the same

A 150-foot corridor through these lands would fragment wildlife habitat and reduce recreational opportunities, which Maine will come to depend on, more and more in future years as tourists look to Maine for its unspoiled natural recreation opportunities. This corridor would substantially alter these public lands and in effect, reduce them-- lands that belong to all Maine people.

The Legislature needs to hold Bureau of Public Lands and Central Maine Power accountable and make it very clear that they are subject to the required 2/3 vote in order for the CMP corridor to proceed. Article IX, section 23 was passed by Maine voters by 72% in 1993. LD 471 would see that this section is upheld, that the will of the people is upheld, and that this illegal situation is rectified. Please vote for LD 471.