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March 18, 2021

Testimony of Rep. Scott Landry supporting

LD 471, An Act To Require Legislative Approval for Certain Leases of Public Lands

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil and fellow members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee, I am Scott Landry. I represent House District 113, which includes both Farmington and New Sharon. I am here today on behalf of my constituents to testify in support of **LD 471, An Act To Require Legislative Approval for Certain Leases of Public Lands**, and I urge you to again pass this important legislation with a strong bipartisan vote.

My reasoning is quite simple – in 1993, 72% of Mainers voted to amend our constitution to require a 2/3 vote of the Legislature for the lease or sale of public lands in the case that the use or value of that land would be substantially altered. The NECEC Corridor project, which faces strong opposition in my district and across the state, has successfully circumvented the Maine Constitution by getting not one but three leases to bisect our public lands for the transmission corridor. The corridor would undoubtedly alter the use and value of those lands without our consent or any sort of public process.

This is just plain wrong, and it flies in the face of what Mainers so clearly intended when they amended our Constitution years ago. As a current member of this committee, I am especially concerned that the third time CMP's lease was amended by the Bureau of Parks and Lands occurred just weeks after the Legislature unanimously supported a similar measure last year. The people of this great state trust us to be stewards of our public lands, so please join me in again supporting this important measure.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

District 113: Farmington and New Sharon