

Janet Lynch
Pownal

Esteemed Chair and Members of the Agricultural, Conservation and Forestry Commission,

My name is Janet Lynch and I live in Pownal. I WANTED to testify in person, but cannot work out how to get in the queue. I STRONGLY SUPPORT SENATOR BLACK'S BILL, LD 471, which compels approval of two thirds of the members of both Houses of the Legislature for ANY use of public reserved lands for transmission lines and facilities and certain other projects, to apply retroactively to 16 September 2014. As many persons submitting testimony have rightly noted, the Maine Constitution could not be more clear. As Justice Murphy of the Maine Superior Court rightly decided yesterday in Black v. Cutko yesterday, whether land is sold or leased is a technicality and is irrelevant. Obviously, if a lessee plans major environmental changes on publicly owned land, that is a major environmental change to our, the People of the State of Maine's public lands, and such changes cannot be exempted on technicality.

The proposed CMP corridor would wreak MAJOR and deleterious changes on the public lands in question and alterations to these lands would absolutely be subject to the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 23, and the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, §598-A to leases of public reserved lands. The applicability of Maine's Constitution and relevant statutes to the proposed use of public lands by proponents of the environmentally destructive proposed CMP corridor is so obvious from the view of basic common sense that it should not require the proposed legislation and above-referenced legal case to emphasize this obvious legal applicability. Unfortunately, legal cases and legislation are required to close technical loopholes used so nefariously by project proponents.

For far too long, politicians and governmental bodies of both parties have failed in their solemn duty to protect our state, its people and its environment from the depredations of foreign owned CMP/ Avangrid/ Iberdrola and Hydro Québec to steamroller our state's most valued environmental assets, including our public lands without opportunity for public notice and comment.

It is time to cut the loopholes and abusive skullduggery of project proponents and to make it clear that our state's public lands are owned by the People of the State of Maine. They are not to be despoiled by rapacious foreign-owned corporations for their own and their stockholders' financial gain, without regard to the environmental and social impacts of their actions on our state's public lands.

GIVEN THE ABUSIVE ATTEMPT TO USE LEGAL LOOPHOLES TO EVADE PUBLIC REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES WHICH WOULD DESPOIL OUR PUBLIC LANDS, L.D. 471 IS SORELY NEEDED. PLEASE VOTE THAT L.D. 471 OUGHT TO PASS.

Thank you very much for offering me the opportunity to comment on this extremely important issue.

Sincerely,

Janet Lynch, Pownal