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I wish to address LD471 which concerns the proposed CMP corridor. In 1994 the legislature implemented the amendment to the State of Maine constitution which states that State parkland held for conservation purposes may not be reduced or its uses substantially changed except by a two thirds vote of the house and senate. However, in 2014, the state signed a lease with CMP for 36 acres, part of which are conservation parkland, for the CMP corridor. In 2015, another lease was signed for the same parcel. In 2020, a third deal was brokered by the current administration for these 36 acres. That's three leases in six years by two administrations, and none of them with any vote at all by the legislature and senate. This corridor will, without question, change the use of the land and endanger wildlife in the area. It is very clear that state law and our state constitution have been ignored.

If the corridor were going to help Mainers lower their electric rates, I might at least, understand the reasons for using a small portion of our valuable parkland for this purpose. However, the purpose of this corridor is to lower electric rates for Massachusetts, and as I understand it, will have little or no benefits to Maine. As a citizen of Maine, I see no reason to give up our precious wildlands for a destructive and unpopular corridor that only benefits someone else. Before these deals are implemented with CMP, I ask you that they be approved by the people of Maine, through their legislators, by a two thirds vote in both houses in accordance with the Maine constitution and law. Government leaders have no right to broker away our land without our approval.