

DARRYL WOOD
New Sharon

Testimony of Maine Resident Darryl Wood
before the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
March 18, 2021

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

Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil and honored members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry: My name is Darryl Wood from New Sharon, and I have the honor of providing support for LD 471, An Act To Require Legislative Approval for Certain Leases of Public Lands, as presented by my Senator Russell Black.

It is my understanding The Maine Constitution and statutes require a 2/3 vote of the legislature when the public lands are significantly altered, but that that was circumvented somehow for the CMP leases for their highly unpopular Corridor project. While disturbing, it is not surprising because for 2 plus years I have watched CMP get their way with the PUC, DEP and ACOE despite overwhelming opposition from ordinary Mainers.

I also understand that the language "significantly altered" may be in question. Of course, that is a subjective term. Some people may come to Maine for the powerlines, but I would argue most come here to get away from them. Never in my lifetime have I seen such opposition to a project from the rank-and-file citizens of this state. Young and old, republican and democrat, yuppie and hippie. I am certain most would define cutting a property in half with a swarth and huge, towering monopoles significantly alters that property. To the point where many or most people would choose to recreate elsewhere.

The most troubling portion of these CMP leases was the sneaky and underhanded way they were implemented. Again, not surprising given the characters, but this is exactly why I strongly support Senator Blacks reiteration of a law that was supposedly already in place. Due process and transparency in government is the absolute baseline from which we must work from. This significant alteration of Maine Public Reserve Land certainly does not meet the multiple use criteria that was intended for hunting, fishing, hiking, birdwatching and enjoyment by Maine citizens. I implore you to vote to support the good senators resolve.