

Dianne Wilkins
Falmouth

Stop this Theft of public lands that Mainers have protected, loved and depend on. It is very clear what the law requires in this case since 72% of Maine voters in 1993, voted to amend the Constitution in order to protect public lands. Specifically, they passed Article IX, Section 23 of the Maine Constitution, which 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 purposes.”

Blatantly ignoring the legal requirement to get a 2/3 vote of the Legislature before issuing a lease for an obviously destructive project across public lands, BPL has failed to do so three times in the past. What exactly is going on here and why/who allowed this to occur three times? The law should be applied to all and not exempt those who have money to skirt it.

CMP would cut a 150-foot corridor through these public lots, fragmenting wildlife habitat and harming recreational opportunities. This would clearly reduce and substantially alter these lands that belong to all Maine people.

The Legislature needs to hold BPL accountable and make it very clear that BPL must get the required 2/3 vote for this Foreign Corporation's destructive corridor through our taxpayer owned lands and other projects like it that would irreparably damage public lands.