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I support LD 471.

CMP Corridor --- A Done Deal?

Maine is famously an independent state. Maine people aren't affluent, but we have a quality of life that is the envy of other New England states. We welcome tourists who come from all over the world to enjoy our mountains, woods, wildlife, lakes, streams, coast, and night skies. We have protected our resources and benefited from a lumbering history that maintained large tracts of forestland. We DON'T welcome the proposed New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) or CMP transmission corridor, which would bring hydropower from Quebec to markets in Massachusetts. It would be an industrial strip, 145 miles long and 300 to 500 feet wide (as wide as the New Jersey turnpike), through the Maine woods. There is nothing 'clean' or 'energetic' about this corridor for Maine. This proposed swath of industrial power lines would cross the Kennebec River Gorge, the Appalachian Trail, 263 wetlands, 115 streams, and 263 wetlands. It will sever and scar the largest contiguous temperate forest in North America and damage ecological migration networks for vegetation, amphibians, birds, and mammals. This corporate conglomerate will threaten Maine's fragile native brook trout, white-tail deer wintering habitats, wilderness river and rafting businesses, Appalachian Mountain hikers, waterfowl habitat, and it will impose the glare of lights into an otherwise quiet, dark night sky.

This industrial corridor would be constructed for and only benefit Massachusetts, Quebec-Hydro and CMP. Now, Maine is a good neighbor, but we don't owe Massachusetts, CMP, or Quebec Hydro a dime. The energy produced will not benefit Maine, lower our prices, or insure better service! It will NOT improve Maine's economy, but would have severe impacts on our environment. There is no definitive evidence that greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced by this project. Mainers are pretty loyal to natives, but CMP is no longer a Maine owned business. It is owned by Connecticut-based Avangrid, which is owned by Iberdrola, a Spanish company, and its electric service to Maine customers has been less than satisfactory in recent years. Numerous Maine towns have voted against this corridor. No environmental organizations in Maine support the construction of this transmission corridor. Confidence in CMP has been shaken by over-billing, unexplained usage, metering and billing systems, unresponsive customer service, and, recently, disconnect notices to customers. There is no reason for Maine people to support a CMP project of this size in our state. WHY EVER would we allow such a monstrous trail of towers and web of wires to industrialize and deface our fragile, historic and much-loved woods & waters. I join a majority of Maine people in saying NO, NO, NO to the NECEC, CMP corridor.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak to this issue.

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