

Abi Morrison  
Rockland

Your honorables;

While I support the intent of all the bills before you today (April 1), the reason I'm writing is to vehemently support the act to protect public lands. We must avoid political manipulation of crucial decisions on these precious tracts. While I don't have the exact figures at hand, a very small percentage of Maine is actually under public ownership. We need to truly allow the citizens to be involved in major choices that impact all of us. I use the word vehemently because right now a determined band of citizens from across the political spectrum are fighting to defend the lands west of Jackman. Spanish owned CMP and Canadian owned Hydro Quebec want to slash a huge swath across public lands with tacit approval from two governors. We need a clear process to assess major changes to uses of our lands. This bill will give us a way give access to Mainers to that process. Thank you for your consideration.