

LD1075

Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil & Members of the Committee:

Please vote yes ought to pass LD1075 - An Act To Protect Public Lands

On electronic media the Maine public is now listening to costly false advertising paid for by Canadian public corporation Hydro Quebec - misstating the effect of the power line on the environment of Maine. The Maine people cannot afford to advertise to counteract these prevarications with the truth.

The name: "Clean Energy Corridor" is misrepresentation because clear cutting trees for a high voltage power line prevents photosynthesis by trees that are removed that previously transformed CO<sub>2</sub> into oxygen but no longer do. Thus, Clear cutting has the effect of combustion: it increases CO<sub>2</sub> & reduces Oxygen. It is fallacious to call this "clean energy" because it is not clean. CO<sub>2</sub> is a major cause of global climate change.

Because Bureau of Public Lands currently doesn't have process or rules to determine if a project meets the "substantially altered" criteria 2 administrations issued leases to Central Maine Power without Legislative vote.

Legislative vote is constitutionally-required.

A Justice in Maine Court found that the Bureau did not properly identify if Central Maine Power Corridor would substantially reduce or alter value of public lands before issuing leases to Central Maine Power.

Establishing rules will ensure that the Maine Constitution is upheld, and that the same standards are applied to leases or sales involving our public lands, regardless of who is in power. In 1993, 72% of Mainers voted to protect Maine's public lands by amending the Maine Constitution to require a vote of 2/3 of the Legislature for sales or leases that substantially reduce or alter the value of land held in public trust.

The Power Corridor will cross & damage the Appalachian trail which is a natural wilderness treasure bringing hikers from more southern states to engage with the natural beauty of the Maine wilderness. I met a hiker on the Appalachian trail near Sugarloaf who had come the length of the trail from Georgia who told me that Maine was a "whole other world." Those were her words. Will they still be impressed with its natural beauty when they see clear cut forests and huge overhead high voltage power cables? I don't think so .

The unfair misrepresentation broadcast on media is not a first amendment right of the HydroQuebec Corporation. They are spend huge sums of money that the Maine people do not have - thus only one side of the story is told. That is not freedom of speech it is tyranny. They advertised misinformation, distortions, fabrications and falsehoods without any opportunity for others to tell the truth. Plus they are not even U S citizens they are Canadians - The first amendment argument which their proponents used is erroneous for these reasons.

Solar energy is being produced for under 3 cents per kilowatt hour price will fall as more is produced due to economies of scale, Hydro will never be able to compete with solar so in the long run this corridor will stand idle after it is built. It will have ruined our natural wilderness and then not even be used.

To ensure openness and transparency, it's essential to pass LD 1075. Please vote yes ought to pass on LD1075 - An Act To Protect Public Lands. Perhaps we can avoid the mistake of building this power line.

With Best Regards,

Randall Parr  
Appleton, Maine

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