

Dan McKay
Dixfield

Chairman Lawrence, Chairman Berry and distinguished members of the EUT Committee. I provide this testimony opposed to LD 170

An Act Pertaining to Transmission Lines Not Needed for Reliability or Local Generation

What would make one think that a transmission line that provides generation to a network shared by six states would be nonessential to any one of the six states ? Why wouldn't Maine ratepayers share in the benefits of any generation entering the network in any location within the geographical borders of such network ? Nuclear plant generation originating in Connecticut is shared throughout New England and essential to Maine. Coal plant generation from New Hampshire is shared and essential generation to Maine. Natural gas-fired plant generation from Massachusetts is essential to Maine. To distinguish any generation that is allowed interconnection by ISO-NE as nonessential is silly, emotional and a surefire way to cripple the network. Is Maine wind, of which 80% of the generation is contracted by power purchase agreements with Southern New England utilities, a service to Maine ratepayers ? This bill is an attempt to punish one utility and an entire shared electric network. The fact is Maine's in-state electric generation is dominated by hydro power at 39.4%, closely followed by wind at 29% and solar is on course to generate 2000 megawatts on sunny days. Any generation that enters the grid at a site in Maine is good for Maine, especially if it can be delivered at night, during windless days and/or periods of drought. Let's be realistic.

Dan McKay

Dixfield