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# LD 170: An Act Pertaining to Transmission Lines Not Needed for Reliability or Local Generation

1 SUMMARY This bill establishes requirements for the approval of construction of nonessential transmission lines when the party seeking approval from the Public Utilities Commission is a transmission and distribution utility. The bill defines "nonessential transmission line" as a transmission line that is not being constructed primarily for reliability purposes or to serve retail customers in the State and provides that a generator interconnection transmission facility is not a nonessential transmission line. In addition to meeting the existing requirements in law for approval of a transmission line, a transmission and distribution utility petitioning for commission approval for a nonessential transmission line is required to demonstrate that the petitioner agrees to provide a minimum benefit to ratepayers in the State of equal value to the ratepayer-funded physical assets used to construct the nonessential transmission line. The bill requires the Public Utilities Commission to conduct an inquiry to determine statutory or rule changes needed to ensure that nonessential transmission lines are built in the most competitive and cost-effective manner and with consideration given to ratepayer benefits and greenhouse gas reduction goals and to report the results of the inquiry to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

Tom Saviello, Wilton, retired and recovering politician! I am here to support LD 170. I am sure you all know I am fighting the CMP NECEC. Why... because it is a bad deal for Maine. I will not go into the details... but simply say Maine is getting a whoopee pie and a cup of coffee while CMP etc. is getting a gold mine for a "nonessential transmission line. Although LD 170 won't apply to the NECEC project, I believe this bill will insure future nonessential transmission lines will benefit Mainers.

Let me use the NECEC so called settlement package as an example. Keep in mind, as CMP has reminded us, this corridor may be built in existing right of ways already being paid for by Mainers through our T and D costs.

In the summer of 2019, I helped a local group of Franklin County Citizens try to negotiate a settlement agreement with CMP for the NECEC. In that discussion CMP NEVER told us the profitability of this line. Still, we negotiated in good faith only to have the door shut in our face.

The next thing we knew the PUC, CMP and their friends were negotiating a settlement agreement. WE were not included in the discussions until the deal was done. After their negotiations were over, we were told the State now negotiated a good deal for the people of Maine.

How do any of us know if Maine is getting a good deal? How does anyone in State government know that? Because CMP decided to throw a few million bucks towards heat pumps and electric vehicles (two things that use more electricity, by the way, which of course CMP would support us using more electricity)?

The people who will get these heat pump subsidies or will use the EV charging stations aren't the same people who paid for the parts of this transmission line CMP is using to run this line to Massachusetts. That is the Maine ratepayer – all of us – we are the ones who paid for that line. And that's why, if a transmission line is built in the future in Maine that is a non-essential line and the people to negotiate settlement agreements on behalf of the State government want it approved, they need to make sure Maine ratepayers at least get paid back the money they paid to get the line built in the first place.

That's why this is a "good government" bill – it makes sure that if big corporations want to use things Maine ratepayers paid for in order to make money for their parent company, then the least that they can do is pay Mainers back for it. The good Representative, by adding the GHG reduction goals to the bill will ensure future suppliers of the "Green" power will be required to provide information to the PUC and this committee. In the case of the NECEC this information was modelled by a consultant and the supplier, Hydro-Quebec, never testified under oath to answer questions!

I believe when this bill passes it will ensure citizens of Maine will truly benefit if such non-essential transmission lines are constructed. And GHG will truly and measurably be reduced.