

Matthew Rhodes
Parsonsfield ME

The heart of America is small communities. These small communities in Maine have set the tone and example of what it means to be American. They have acted as custodians to this great land God has given us. The CMP and similar foreign powers have no desire to protect American lands or serve the American people, the proof of which is in the vast destruction of Maine's virgin woodlands, Larry Woodson once said "America is a land of second chances". by this he meant we learn from our mistakes in America and we correct them. I believe that and to the lawmakers here today I am asking you to take a stand against environmental irresponsibility. Here is that second chance, to learn from the mistakes we have made in the past, and to become protectors of our environment. The people of Maine and myself included want to protect our environment. you can do that by supporting LD 1587. All across the globe the consciousness of man is being raised to a new height and a greater awareness of our role in protecting the planet. CMP is not protecting the planet, they are not protecting America and they are not protecting Maine. Here today in Maine lawmakers can make a difference and set a global precedent, that we will protect our forests and woodlands at all costs. To the lawmakers and committees supporting CMP do you want to hand over a Maine with a devastated eco system? Is that your legacy you wish to give your children and grandchildren? Or do you want to show that you stood for something, and became a protector? Today, you can, in a small way turn back the tide of corporate lust and destruction.

"Under current law, the Public Utilities Commission has the authority to override the wishes of local municipalities to ensure that projects for the greater public good are feasible. However, the way the law currently stands, this same power is granted to the PUC even when transmission lines are non-essential like CMP's NECEC for-profit corridor". We need to change this for two reasons. One, "The greater public good should never overshadow individual liberty and freedom". To say the state should and can have the authority to subvert the will of local communities is another example of governmental tyranny. Without small towns being able to defend their sovereignty we make a vestigial scar on the sanctity of liberty and freedom which is what defines America. The Declaration of Independence says. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

There is no consent of the governed in bodies of commissions like the PUC. no one in this room elected Philip L. Bartlett II to govern us, we didn't give permission to Mills to elect others to govern us. In short if there is no consent there is no proper law and what remains is illegal and unconstitutional.

Today lawmakers have a chance to become Just, to defend America and with their vote send a positive shockwave across the globe that here in Maine we stood our ground against corporate tyranny and the destruction of the planet