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Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology Members  
131<sup>st</sup> Maine Legislature, Second Regular Session  
Cross Building, Room 211  
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 1963 - An Act Regarding the Future of Renewable Energy Transmission in Northern Maine

Dear Senator Mark Lawrence, Representative S. Paige Zeigler, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

For the past 35 years, I have been a resident and registered voter of Corinth, Maine. Please accept this brief written testimony regarding the January 11, 2024 public hearing of LD 1963 – An Act Regarding the Future of Renewable Energy Transmission in Northern Maine. **I oppose L.D. 1963.**

Last year, passage of L.D. 924 (“Resolve, to Provide Legislative Approval of the Transmission Project Selected by the Public Utilities Commission Pursuant to the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program”) blindsided municipalities, landowners, businesses, farms, and other stakeholders. The transmission corridor route was not transparent at the time of legislative voting, thus depriving stakeholders and abutters (myself included) of specific public comment prior to the legislative vote. As a result, there was public outcry, distrust, and new relevant municipal moratoriums and ordinances.

I oppose L.D. 1963 and, like L.D. 924, it’s nontransparent and vague. Maine people deserve better. We deserve to begin renewable energy solutions with a fresh start and a feasibility study for the sake of future generations. Below are examples of vague terms in L.D. 1963:

1. Sec. 2. 35-A MRSA § 3210-I, sub-§2 amends with the term, “**infrastructure.**” This is too vague a term. It’s like a blank check for development without specific legislative and stakeholder approval. What specifically is infrastructure here?
2. Sec. 1. 35-A MRSA § 3210-I, sub-§1 F and Sec. 3. 35-A MRSA § 3210-I, sub-§3 amends with the term “**other entities.**” This is too vague a term and, as above, is like a blank check without specific legislative and stakeholder approval. What/who specifically are other entities?

Respectfully submitted,

Carole L. Getchell