

Sharon Sprague
Corinth
LD 1963

Dear members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee, I am very concerned about the possible ramifications of LD 1963. I am concerned that in the name of renewable energy decisions will be made that will negatively affect our state and many residents and tourists. Allowing unsightly towers across our state is not necessary. Using existing corridors and burial of lines will allow us to retain our scenic value - the reason most tourists visit our state and one of the reasons many Mainers choose to live here. I am a Maine native and hate to see our state used badly for the sake of arbitrary goals that do not take into consideration the voice of its residents. I was told by a representative that Maine is a cheap date. Other states have the money and therefore influence to keep these power lines out of their states. It seems as though we are at the mercy of arbitrary decisions and I am asking you to engage in a respectful process to create your next RFP. Allow citizens who are impacted to have a voice. Do not allow greed to change the nature of our state. I have read that the amount of forest that will be permanently decimated if the transmission route goes through our rural areas and therefore unable to decrease carbon is more than our current carbon footprint. How does this make sense? The last proposed route of the transmission line was to go through my property, ruining its scenic value, my cherished sunsets, and devaluing my property by as much as 50%. I bought my property to be surrounded by trees and wildlife. That is the reason someone else would buy my property. When I can no longer take care of my property and need to sell it to transition into a different environment I will not be able to receive what my property is currently worth. Is the state willing to pay me 50% of my current real estate value if my scenic value is ruined? How am I going to make up the difference in assets to be able to relocate? There were many suggestions submitted to the PUC regarding the LS Power proposed route. Please consider how these transmission lines affect our lives and incorporate the intelligent suggestions submitted to the PUC. There are ways to accomplish reasonable energy goals without hurting Maine residents.