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Senator Louis Luchini  
Representative Chris Caiazzo  
Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

March 15, 2021

Dear Senator Luchini and Representative Caiazzo:

Please accept this testimony in opposition to L.D. 194, An Act To Prohibit Contributions, Expenditures and Participation by Foreign Government-owned Entities To Influence Referenda.

I read with interest the next rationale for stopping the corridor from being constructed. Seems like nothing will stop the forces against it from pursuing all means.

I have to wonder a few things: why has NRCM who fought against acid rain and its deleterious effects on lakes, streams and habitat, is more willing to support those polluters (coal, oil and gas generators) than a less polluting project. There are tradeoffs that we all make: opposing the hydro project and support more carbon build up and toxicity or supporting carbon reduction and concede some forested property for reduced carbon in the air.

The Northwoods has been cut over, is being cut over and will be cut over with multiple roads made to accommodate that work. Damage to

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streams, habitat and wildlife have occurred and will occur, and many jobs and businesses rely on that work.

We can continue ad nauseum to fight for the natural environment which I support and enjoy. The fossil fuel suppliers to Maine and other regional states want to grow their businesses and deliver more product. Understandably, they actively oppose any hydro product competition. They may well enjoy the same beautiful places, rivers, streams and mountains that we do, but their goal is to sell more carbon generating products. Furthermore, there is significant money being generated and spent to cover the legal costs fighting the hydro project. Where does that funding come from?

I have to believe that NRCM and its supporters understand and accept that premise of those providers. What I do not understand or accept is how they can dance with the devil they know. Collectively, we make tradeoffs every day: driving your car to the store vs walking or cranking your thermostat up on these cold winter days vs putting on more layers.

I love the outdoors and cherish the natural world. I make my decisions with my children, their children and their children in mind. I want a clean, healthy world and we need to move that way now. Not wait another ten years or twenty when we can act now.

Respectfully,

David Hyde  
Pownal