

Testimony on LD 194, LD 479, LD 641  
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Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo and other members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, thank you for offering an opportunity for written testimony on these closely related legislative proposals.

With all due respect to the sponsors, I see all three of these legislative initiatives as an effort to silence Hydro Quebec, which is owned by the Province of Quebec, while allowing the Texas based natural gas energy companies, Calpine and Vistra, and Florida based NextEra which runs the Wyman's oil fired plant to continue to fund a PAC that seeks to undermine an important opportunity to bring clean Canadian hydropower into the New England grid. Since climate change is a globally caused crisis, it is unrealistic to look at things simply from the perspective of the impact of the minor expansion of existing Maine corridor and 53 miles of new corridor through a heavily harvested forest area. The Maine Climate Action Plan sets a goal of carbon neutrality by 2045, and such a goal for New England grid will require the elimination of natural gas fired energy plants, currently providing 49% of New England's electricity production. Very large methane emissions arise from natural gas fracking and leaky pipelines, and the Environmental Defense Fund states that methane has caused 25% of global warming to date.

So why would Maine censor and restrict political speech for clean energy Hydro Quebec, owned by our respected next door neighbor the Province of Quebec, while allowing natural gas and oil companies to continue to fund the opposition to NECEC? Ironically, one of those natural gas companies, Calpine, is now partially owned by a Canadian pension fund.

I urge you to vote against all three legislative proposals in support of both free speech and the future of Maine's environment.

Thank you,  
Tony Marple