

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY**  
**State of Maine Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee**  
Submitted via the Legislature's Testimony Submission portal

Date: March 12, 2021

To: Senator Louis Luchini, Chair  
Rep. Christopher Caiazzo, Chair  
And members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

From: Mark Turek  
Randolph, Maine USA

Re: LD 194: An Act To Prohibit Contributions, Expenditures and Participation by Foreign Government-owned Entities To Influence Referenda  
LD 479: An Act To Ban Foreign Campaign Contributions and Expenditures in Maine Elections

Position: Support for both LD194 and LD 479

First, because of a conflict with my work schedule, I appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony in advance for your consideration. Since both LD194 and LD 479 are very similar in nature, I ask you to consider my comments for both of these bills.

While I understand we do have current laws which prohibit foreign interference in elections, it has become very obvious that certain foreign organizations like Hydro-Quebec have discovered a large loophole here in Maine and they're clearly exploiting that for the proposed CMP Corridor Project with Massachusetts and Hydro-Quebec. That loophole needs to be closed up in order to end this example of foreign interference in our election process, and passing both LD194 and LD 479 will help do that. In addition, it will help avoid other similar situations like this in the future. BTW, I believe this kind of foreign interference is also currently illegal in Canada.

Unfortunately, it seems this loophole has been used before. In fact, I understand that Hydro-Quebec was previously fined \$35k by ethics after pleading guilty to spending \$100k to influence Maine voters before registering as a PAC which is a clear violation of Maine's campaign law. That fine appears to be the second-largest campaign violation fine in our Maine history.

As you've all probably noticed, radio, television, newspaper, and Internet ads have been raging for months in Maine about the very questionable CMP Corridor Project (aka NECEC). While spending millions of dollars to influence Maine voters and lawmakers, Hydro-Quebec has never provided verifiable evidence about their environmental claims regarding this very controversial project which makes the current loophole an even worse problem for our state. This is unethical & unacceptable.

Finally, Mainers deserve a better overall elections process. Passing both LD194 and LD 479 will help do that. Thank you for considering my comments for both bills.

Respectfully,  
Mark Turek  
Randolph, Maine USA

Mark Turek  
Randolph

Please see the attached Word document.