

Burke, Ruth A

From: Hendrik Gideonse <gideonse@midmaine.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 26, 2018 3:45 PM
To: Crawford, Jeff S
Subject: Keep Maine's Air Clean!

Dear Jeffrey Crawford,

I oppose the Department of Environmental Protection's petition to take most of Maine out of the Ozone Transport Region. Weakening Maine's participation in this agreement is the wrong direction for Maine. Given our geographic position, we need strong clean air protections in those upwind states, we need to stay fully committed to this agreement. Maine has some of the highest rates of asthma in the entire country, and we sit at the tailpipe of the nation. We need to continue to move forward on clean air protections instead of backward.

But the problem for Maine, Jeff, as you surely know is way bigger than this.

If your teenagers were ever as disorganized and willful in performing their homework responsibilities as Maine has been in the last eight years in addressing a comprehensive energy policy, you would have been all over them! MBEP, DEP, LURC, OPA, MPUC, the GEO and the five appropriate Legislative Committees should collectively be ashamed over how ill-organized and poorly-coordinated their efforts remain. Maine's cumulative side-stepping of climate change as a critical variable in Maine's future underscores the current wrongheadedness and danger of both Maine's and the Federal administrations.

A better example of the flaws and folly of piecemeal policy development could not be found; one need only look at Maine's recent experience. But even further, there are no policy research resources that could or have been brought into play to do the comprehensive and interactive policy work exploring with real and projected data and sound science on these complex issues. Time and again in recent years the weaknesses of "citizen legislators," otherwise a good idea, trying to grapple with complex scientific and technical issues without high quality, ongoing non-partisan policy support has been revealed.

So the issue is not just a dumb (the time for mincing words is long past!) proposal to take most of Maine out of the Ozone Transport Region. It is way, way bigger than that.

In the next thirty years Maine must wean itself off fossil fuels almost entirely, for climate reasons, but also for economic reasons (the \$6 billion a year we cream off the top of our economy paying others for what we can come to produce for ourselves!). Fossil fueled energy must be replaced with indigenous alternatives and those costs allowed to recycle within our own economy, not Pennsylvania's, Louisiana's, or Texas. Transportation should become almost exclusively electric with all the necessary support structures. Etc. Etc. (Check out www.mainelongrangeenergyplanning.com) And because such decisions would be a matter of public policy, not just market decisions unfairly falling on those who made responsible decisions under what turned out to be under untenable assumptions, the state as a whole should assure that the inevitable landings of those people will be soft ones, protected by new approaches to "eminent domain."

Our grandchildren's fortunes and futures are at stake!

Sincerely,
Hendrik Gideonse

