

**York, Marylisa**

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**From:** Tom Rumpf <trumpfy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 5:55 PM  
**To:** DEP, NECEC  
**Subject:** Public Testimony, NECEC License Suspension Proceeding  
**Attachments:** DEP Testimony of Thomas Rumpf.docx

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I am submitting testimony for the public hearing.

*Tom Rumpf*  
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**Testimony of Thomas Rumpf**  
**State of Maine**  
**Department of Environmental Protection**  
**License Suspension Proceeding**  
**October 19,2021**

My name is Tom Rumpf. I am a licensed forester in Maine (#538) and have spent my career in natural resources management and policy here in Maine over four decades, working, over time, in the state, private industry and nonprofit sectors.

I encourage you to not suspend NECEC's license for the following reasons:

1. The lease in question with the Bureau of Parks and Lands remains in effect until the appeal of the Superior Court decision is resolved by the Law Court, ensuring that the right title and interest of NECEC to the corridor across the public lots in Johnson Twp. has not changed,
2. Climate change is an existential threat to Maine's forests at the present time, and the NECEC project is one significant step we can take to decarbonize the New England electric grid. Delays to project completion should DEP suspend the license, will prevent completion of the project in time to meet contract requirements with the State of Massachusetts, and will foreclose this effort to decarbonize the New England grid,
3. There are a several ways NECEC may resolve the issues raised by the Superior Court ruling if the Law Court upholds the Superior Court decision,
4. The Superior Court ruled only that BPL failed to take certain procedures in granting the lease, not that the lease would cause "substantial alteration" to the public lots in question.

For all these reasons, I encourage you to sustain the DEP license, as precedent would argue, at least until the Law Court rules on the pending appeal.

Thank you.

Tom Rumpf  
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Brunswick, ME 04011