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Commissioner Melanie Loyzim,
Members of the Department of Environmental Protection
State House Station #17
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Suspension Hearing for CMP/NECEC
November 22, 2021

Dear Commissioner Loyzim

As I listen to the Hearing today (November 22, 2021) I believe that you are asked to decide if under the current law, which was passed by the majority vote of the People of Maine on November 2, 2021, the Department of Environmental Protection should suspend the permits to allow continuation of the project. The citizens initiative passed overwhelmingly. It passed across the entire state, it was not a matter of NIMBY. This is a bipartisan agreement that the corridor project does not actually benefit the people of Maine more than it harms us. I believe that not suspending the permits will cause serious harm to the rule of law in this state and thus harm this Administration significantly.

While CMP/NECEC make repeated statements to the contrary, they began the process of cutting the corridor before all the lawsuits had been settled. They gambled shareholders' dollars by assuming the courts would find in their favor. Their financial risk should not be your concern. Most businesses would not enter into a multi billion dollar investment while courts had not found in their favor nor yet made decisions.

The judgement before you has to do with our democracy. Parsing the statement is mere obfuscation. Suspending the license is necessary for three reasons: 1) the certified vote, 2) the lack of RTI and subsequently required Legislative vote on the Public Lands Parcel due to the Cutko decision, and 3) alternative corridor location must by law go through further permitting procedures outside of the current scope of the application. New paths for the corridor are speculations only and not carefully evaluated. Given the vulnerable nature of the lands in question, new areas of the corridor (24.5 miles) must require new applications.

Please suspend the permits for the CMP/ NECEC transmission corridor, Perhaps then we can find real climate solutions to our energy needs that do not cause permanent wholesale destruction of our forested lands and the boreal forest of Canada. We need all the forests we can find to provide carbon sinks and habitat.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely

Becky Layton Bartovics