

## York, Marylisa

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**From:** Burke, Ruth A  
**Sent:** Monday, November 22, 2021 7:28 AM  
**To:** DEP, NECEC  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony for 11/22 EP Hearing

Ruth Ann Burke  
Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
Board of Environmental Protection  
Commissioner's Office

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**From:** Richard Bennett <rick@rickbennett.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 19, 2021 6:00 PM  
**To:** Burke, Ruth A <Ruth.A.Burke@maine.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony for 11/22 EP Hearing

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I am pleased to submit the testimony below for consideration at Monday's hearing. I know the deadline to register has passed, but if there is a slot still available I would be pleased to give live testimony via Zoom.

Testimony  
Senator Rick Bennett  
DEP Hearing  
November 22, 2021

Good evening and thank you for being here tonight. My name is Rick Bennett. I represent District 19 in the Maine Senate, which includes southern Oxford County and part of Cumberland County. In the Maine Legislature, I serve as the lead Republican on the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

As a member of the committee that oversees the Department of Environmental Protection, I call on the Department today to honor the will of Maine voters by immediately suspending NECEC's permit. As of today, no viable alternative route has been presented to avoid the one-mile gap resulting from the Black v Cutko case, and construction of this type of powerline in the Upper Kennebec Region will be illegal within a matter of weeks. There is no legal path forward for the CMP Corridor project.

Here in Maine, we're incredibly fortunate to have a referendum process in place that allows the people to initiate and pass law on issues of statewide significance. As you know, more than 80,000 Maine voters - well over the minimum threshold - triggered Question 1 on the November ballot, and an overwhelming majority - 59 percent of voters, approved it. The people have spoken loud and clear, and they chose to ban the CMP Corridor.

CMP and its allies spent an exorbitant and unprecedented sum of money to influence the vote, and in the end, they lost. Yet since Election Day, they have pressed on, operating in bad faith and in direct violation of the vote that will soon become law. This company's willingness to completely ignore the outcome of an election that it spent tens of millions of dollars to influence is an affront to our democracy that absolutely should not be tolerated by this Department or this

Administration.

It's time for the Department to step in to protect Maine's environment from further devastation by these foreign interests that care little about Maine's environment, laws or people.

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