

DEP Testimony

Commissioner Losim,

Deputy Madore,

Members of this committee

At the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow the U.S. introduced an initiative to reduce methane levels and sequester CO2 emissions by saving and increasing forestation. Ironically the same day CMP decided to ignore a state wide election and continued to cut down our forest for a corridor to nowhere to bring hydropower from a mega dam that spews methane into the atmosphere.

Thorn Dickerson, Spokesperson for the corridor was on many media outlets days before the election stating he would have to go to The Forks and lay off four hundred workers if the initiative passed. Instead, the next day tree cutting increased and a suit was filed against the State of Maine.

The same week at the NECBC Energy Conference, Avangrid's CEO Dennis Arriola stated about the corridor "It is respectful of the local lands where the transmission line are going to go. I think the narrative has been manipulated by characters that will be on the losing end of the energy transition" and indicated that it would be built. These "characters" are their customers! The people of Maine. I see no respect for the land in segment one. There is a court decision as well as a ballot question That says they are not allowed there but they continue deforestation as quickly as possible now showing no regard for mitigation or environment.

Hydro Quebec's CEO Sophie Brochu Stated in a Quebec newspaper that the project will happen and what she has learned was that they were "too Nice." I truly hope that was just a poor translation although they did join the suit against The State of Maine.

With everything that has been slowly uncovered and brought to light since this project's inception, it is becoming hard to keep an open mind. To now question if the Kennebec River is part of the Upper Kennebec Valley? I wonder if these public hearings with no actions taken by the DEP are nothing but a rouse to create more delays and placate those opposed because there just might be another deal to ensure the project goes through. The people involved with building the corridor seem quite sure and are putting a lot of money on it.

PLEASE PROVE ME WRONG!

Do not ignore a court decision on Public Lands.

Do not wait for a certified Maine vote to become law.

Do not let clearing right down to the water's edge of an AA tributary that is so important to the survival of one of the last remaining habitats to native brook trout go unchecked without mitigation, consequences and fines.

Do not let this project divide the largest continuous forest east of the Mississippi while CMP ensures (as they have stated) that all the cutting will be complete by the end of the year in hopes to bolster its case in court against the People of Maine by destroying what we are trying to protect.

Do not believe that a voluntary halt is in good faith to the people of Maine. The cutting is nearly complete with crews working into the night to finish before they returned home for the holidays.

They have not complied with the conditions of the permit or have met the conditions set forth by DEP in November to allow them to continue.

CMP cannot be taken for their word. They are not being respectful to our land or our citizens. Please order an immediate stop to all work on this project until your decision to ultimately suspend these permits.

Linda Dubois

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