

1 **Rebuttal to Group 3 Witness: Robert Meyers**

2 I strongly disagree with Robert Meyers Statement in Paragraph 4 of his testimony. ***“In my***
3 ***opinion the predominant attitude of the Associations Membership with respect to the***
4 ***construction of the currently proposed transmission line would be indifference or support,***
5 ***with little or no opposition.”*** First off, this is not based on fact, this is Robert’s opinion only.

6 Robert has **not** taken it on himself to poll his membership on this matter. As one of the founders
7 of the Driftbusters Snowmobile Club, in Pittsfield, Maine and a past MSA member, I have ridden
8 many CMP transmission lines. I only rode them because they were established trails and then
9 only to get to better, more scenic trails. Snowmobilers such as myself, much prefer wilderness
10 trails with true undeveloped scenery. I realize that these trails are on private land and I am very
11 fortunate to have available access to these trails. I am a private land owner myself and also open
12 my land up to the public. I also enjoy the tax benefit of having my land in tree growth. All large
13 private landowners know that failing to open their land to the public will eventually lead to
14 changes in the tax law.

15 Very few snowmobilers would support this transmission line in the Coburn Mountain section of
16 the MSA trails. The view shed from the top of this mountain make for an extraordinary
17 snowmobile experience. This Mountain, as far as I know, is the highest Mountain in the Eastern
18 United States accessible by snowmobile. The addition of a transmission line up and over the
19 mountain would be severely detrimental to the view shed of snowmobilers for miles. The area is
20 unique in the fact that it is such a large land mass, that it creates its own weather. The
21 snowmobile season is actually extended in this area for this reason. This brings business to the
22 area and boosts the economy. If there is no early or late season snow anywhere, there is snow on
23 and around Coburn Mountain. This affords many on and off trail snowmobiling opportunities

1 that do not exist anywhere else in Eastern United States. This makes this a destination area for
2 snowmobilers from all over the country. If Robert Meyers would only take the time to poll his
3 members, he would find out there would be much opposition to this transmission corridor.
4 Especially in the Coburn Mountain area. Quote from Wikipedia, "*Coburn Mountain is #16th on*
5 *the list of the entire New England Fifty Finest Mountains. This is a list of mountains in New*
6 *England, used in the mountaineering sport of peak bagging. The list comprises the 50 summits*
7 *with the highest topographic prominence — a peak's height above the lowest contour which*
8 *encloses that peak and no higher peak.*" This is also the reason that the Coburn Mountain area
9 has unusual snowfall totals that lead to a better wilderness snowmobile experience.
10 I would also respectfully like to say as a private individual, I have few rights as far as protecting
11 an extraordinary area such as Coburn Mountain and its trail system. I am exercising the few
12 rights that I do have by intervening in this process and providing rebuttal to Robert Meyers'
13 testimony. I depend on the State of Maine, Department of Environmental Protection and Land
14 Use Planning Commission to defend my Maine citizen rights, to make the right decision, to
15 protect this unique area from development.

16 **Rebuttal to group 7 Witness, Joe Christopher:**

17 I strongly disagree With Joe Christopher's statement on page 3 of his testimony: "The Project
18 will not change the character of uses associated with these areas."

19 Roads built into and close to the Kennebec Gorge will have an adverse affect on the
20 environment. These roads will allow access to a pristine area that had little access in the past.

21 Transmission poles and lines will still be visible from Moxie Outdoors lunch area even though
22 the lines are under the river.

23 I also disagree with Joe Christopher's statement on page 3 that "these persons are accustomed to

1 not only seeing the large hydro-electric facilities, but also transmission lines that run in close
2 proximity to, and even cross the Penobscot River.” People come to Maine to experience a
3 wilderness experience. The Kennebec Gorge is not the Penobscot River and both have their own
4 unique characteristics. The Kennebec Gorge has virtually been unchanged after Harris Dam to
5 The Forks for thousands of years. I think that does rate “pristine” by any standard.

6 I also disagree with Joe Christopher’s statement on page 4 that, “the project also proposes other
7 buffers that will allow the movement of animals between important habitats and help shield
8 adjacent uses from unsightly developments.” As an avid hunter I can safely say that any long
9 transmission corridor will greatly affect the deer population. Hunters will be drawn to the
10 corridor in hopes of an easy kill. I do not believe Joe Christopher is qualified to make this
11 statement as he has admitted to me that he has only ever hunted 10 minutes and in that 10
12 minutes, shot a Buck in back of his “Inn By The River.”

13 I also disagree with Joe Christopher on page 5 that “access to the Dead River is currently only
14 permitted if users and outfitters pay a premium of \$13.50 per person.” While commercial trips
15 pay that fee, there is no fee for private users that I am aware of.

16 On page 5 Joe Christopher states, “ As part of the MOU, CMP has also agreed to evaluate and
17 negotiate in good faith donations of CMP land that is not essential to CMP’s current or
18 anticipated future needs in order to expand public access to trails, streams, ponds, and other
19 natural resources.” Second bullet point down - “River Frontage below The Forks” Joe
20 Christopher is currently leasing this land from CMP for his Three Rivers Camp Ground. This is
21 not about access to these areas, it is about personal gain for Joe Christopher. In fact I believe that
22 if it was not for personal gain, Joe Christopher would be very much against this project.

Date March 13, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,

Edwin C Buzzell

Edwin C Buzzell



The above-named Edwin C. Buzzell Personally appeared before me and gave oath that the rebuttal testimony herein above is true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief.

*Karen Baker
Notary Public*