9-11-18

I give Sandra Howard permission to submit the following letter as a part of her sworn testimony;   
  
It is disheartening to think the vast wilderness we have, the lakes, the natural beauty of our state is at risk of being destroyed for the benefit of Massachusetts residents. Our Property owners “who are seen to stand in the way” are at risk of being forced off of their family land by eminent domain or bribery, for the residents of Massachusetts and the profits of CMP and their affiliates; Our neighboring states saw the negative side of the plan to implement such measures to ensure Massachusetts has the clean energy they desire, and said NO! CMP has been unable or unwilling to provide information to the public that would suggest the NECEC would provide any sort of environmental benefits to our state, rather it is widely known that boreal reservoirs like hydro-Quebec can generate more climate change emissions than they’d like to admit.      
  
Another serious subject to consider, is the job growth and economic advantages such a large undertaking would mean for our state, The NECEC is said to bring some 3,000 jobs with roughly 1,700 to western Maine, and averaging 3 -5 years to complete. Meaning this provide only TEMPORARY benefits for Maine, with Maine’s unemployment rate being at an all time low, we can assume those who accept the jobs will be skilled workers and even brought in from out of state to fulfill the necessary roles, there is no guarantee that the people of Maine will benefit from these jobs at all.   
  
As we look at this issue from all sides, It should be noted that New Hampshire’s Site Evaluation Committee unanimously defeated the proposal in their state under the marketing term “The Northern Pass” citing the potential negative impact of the project on local communities, businesses and the region’s tourism industry. Is this what we want for Maine? Maine needs to focus on the long term negative effects this project will bring to our state, we need to come together and realize there are far more important things our state needs for the growth of Maine on a sustainable basis, and not worry about delivering this energy to Massachusetts! Maine Should just say NO!!  
  
  
Heidi Greenleaf   
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