**Christopher Fife**

Weyerhaeuser Public Affairs Manager

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February 21, 2019

Via email to NECEC.DEP@maine.gov

James R. Beyer

Regional Licensing and Compliance Manager

Bureau of Land Resources - Eastern Maine Regional Office

Maine Department of Environmental Protection

106 Hogan Road, Suite 6

Bangor, ME 04401

**RE: Adjacent landowner comments regarding the Central Maine Power Co.’s NECEC transmission project**

Dear Mr. Beyer:

Weyerhaeuser owns and manages more than 840,000 acres of private timberland in Maine. One hundred percent of our timberlands are certified to sustainable forestry standards through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). These managed timberlands play an important role in Maine’s $8.5 billion forest industry supplying timber for Maine mills while providing environmental benefits, wildlife habitats and recreational access. Weyerhaeuser maintains the tradition of allowing public, recreational use on our private land.

Central Maine Power Company’s NECEC project is proposed to cross approximately 44 miles of Weyerhaeuser’s working timberland. Renewable energy projects are compatible with our working timberlands and can coexist and provide a public benefit.

Many public comments on record incorrectly characterize our private logging roads and bridges as public ways and express opinions regarding views from our private timberland. These comments demonstrate a serious misunderstanding by some in the public. Public recreational access to these private working forests is at the sole discretion of the landowner. DEP’s request for visual simulations of the NECEC project from Weyerhaeuser land without seeking Weyerhaeuser’s approval perpetuates this public misconception regarding public use of private land. We believe valuing user views from publicly-accessible private land over landowner opinions and wishes sets a dangerous precedent against private property rights.

Weyerhaeuser does not want regulators, including DEP, to consider views from our land (including photosimulations from photos taken from our land) in deciding whether the CMP project will have an adverse effect on the scenic character of our land. We have no concerns about our ability to continue our sustainable management of our adjacent timberlands. Any scenic impact on Weyerhaeuser’s land from the CMP project will be minor, reasonable, and in keeping with the working forest.

Please let us know if we can provide any further information for you. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Christopher Fife

Cc: William Hinkel, Maine Land Use Planning Commission