

Kirkland, April

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Sent: Monday, March 04, 2019 3:24 PM
To: DEP, NECEC
Subject: NECEC PUBLIC COMMENT

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Dear Department of Environmental Protection,

I am writing in strong opposition of the CMP corridor. The corridor is a short-sighted plan that I do not see will be of any benefit to Maine's people in the long term. There are many reasons why I oppose this proposal, both economically and environmentally.

I will speak to the environmental reasons first, since I have heard less emphasis on the projected environmental impact of this plan. Maine's North Woods is a much needed carbon sink. If we are ever to keep our Earth below the necessary 2 degrees of warming in order to secure our survival on this planet, then we need to keep as many of our forests intact as we possibly can. Otherwise, electric cars, etc. will be of no use anyway. I am well-traveled. I have seen the environmental impacts in other places from projects like this. I have seen the North Woods. It may appear that Maine's wilderness is vast and "endless", however it is one of the last remaining eco-systems of its kind, and it is extremely rare in the scope of the entire United States. The CMP Corridor has not thoroughly assessed the environmental impact that the implementation of this proposal would cause.

For example, even if the lines were to be buried beneath the ground to protect the beauty of the gorge, there would be massive disturbance along the river that would negatively impact fish and other wildlife. Diversity would be lost as trees would need to be cut in order to get workers and equipment in there. Has anyone even conducted a thorough assessment of plants and animals that call this area home? What about the species that rely on older growth forests for their survival? I understand that generally speaking, no woods in Maine are "pristine", as the land already has a history of being cut. However, when we allow the land and forests to regenerate, we allow the more delicate species to survive as well. We are experiencing mass species loss on this planet, and Maine's wildlife needs the North Woods intact in order to survive. The corridor of power lines raises serious concern for forest fires as well. Look to California as an example. The CMP Corridor is not a plan that Maine's environment can afford, or survive.

Economically speaking, this plan provides very little benefit to Maine's people as well. \$258 million dollars spread out over time will not provide Maine's people with very much in the long term. Especially not when we consider what the projected economic inflation may become in the future. How are Maine's people going to afford to transition to electric vehicles with \$15 million dollars? Many Maine people are already struggling to afford any kind of car at all. What are a few thousand temporary jobs, when this project would cause permanent scarring to Maine's landscape? Too many times, Maine people have helped to build industry, only to be left high and dry when that industry is done with them. We need not repeat history. Additionally, the CMP Corridor does not provide energy needs for Maine people, and CMP as a company has been very unprofessional and unethical to Maine customers in their business practices.

Maine people are in opposition to continued business with CMP as well as the CMP Corridor itself. Please listen to Maine people.

Thank you,
Marissa Caminiti