

To Whom it May Concern at the LUPC and the DEP,

As a wife and mother of lifelong Mainers, former Marine Science Technician in the US Coast Guard, research scientist published in Nature, and conservationist of Maine's waterways and forests, I strongly oppose the NECEC. Maine should not be brown in order for Massachusetts to be green. The NECEC would be a detriment to Maine on many levels with no clear benefit to Mainers for the following reasons:

1. CMP is foreign-owned and controlled - removed parties should not make decisions about our land.
2. The construction jobs created by this project would be temporary at best and include non-Mainers, as CMP has stated they will need to bring in an unspecified amount of skilled workers from outside Maine.
3. Upon completion of this project, CMP would have an additional 53 miles of lines to service - when there is maintenance or repairs needed (particularly during an act of nature), Maine customers will have to contend with Massachusetts customers for service by CMP in the towns of the proposed corridor.
4. Reducing native vegetation throughout the corridor and forest fractionation would negatively impact wildlife - a decrease in the integrity of brook trout, bald eagle, moose, and deer habitat and increased hunting pressure on deer in the corridor would erode these populations.
5. Carving the path and reducing native vegetation would result in erosion of river and waterway banks.
6. Herbicide application and runoff would lead to compromised water quality.
7. Hydro-Quebec's re-routing of clean energy away from New York and Ontario to Massachusetts would require NY and Ontario to seek another affordable energy source which would likely come from fossil fuels. This would actually harm the environment and increase the area's carbon footprint while decreasing air quality.
8. The North Woods and Kennebec River Gorge are renowned by tourists and Mainers alike for their pristine viewshed. A reduction in the unique "unspoiled wilderness" of the area would reduce marketability and tourism leading to a decline in revenue and jobs.
9. NH has turned the NECEC down. VT has offered a fully permitted, underground option...Maine is just the cheap date.

10. The Maine North Woods is one of the last great contiguous forests in the United States. This has important implications for future generations of Mainers and humans alike.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose the NECEC and urge you to consider the devastating consequences of Maine becoming a power cord for Massachusetts. Maine is NOT for sale.

Sincerely,  
Beth Kiernan (née Nuskey)  
Newburgh, Maine

Ps: An environmentally conscious and truly green alternative that would place the power back in the hands of Maine's citizens rather than in a foreign corporate conglomerate's would be rooftop solar power. Instead of selling the Maine woods off, we could accept bids on a statewide program for rooftop solar installation.