

Kirkland, April

From: seths43@everyactioncustom.com on behalf of Seth Sladek <seths43@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Friday, April 05, 2019 11:32 AM
To: DEP, NECEC
Subject: NECEC Wildlife Impacts Not Properly Avoided, Mitigated, or Compensated

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Dear Maine Department of Environmental Protection,

As proposed, NECEC would negatively affect wildlife through direct habitat loss, habitat alteration, and habitat degradation, and by permanently dissecting large, undeveloped and highly connected forest ecosystems and waterways, and the Applicant has not done enough to avoid, mitigate, or compensate for the permanent degradation of this ecosystem.

Clearing the land alone for the project would prevent 91,872,000 metric tons of carbon sequestration potential over the next 40 years, not to mention the separate impacts on habitat for wildlife. We simply cannot afford to clear another acre of land. Climate change is getting worse; we need all methods of sequestration working for us now--today.

I understand that the DEP is considering the adequacy of the compensation offered for impacts that cannot be reasonably avoided or mitigated. Maine Audubon estimates that Segment 1 of the proposed corridor would impact more than 5,000 linear acres of habitat. Applying a standard multiplier, this would suggest conservation of 40,000 to 100,000 acres of protected lands to offset impacts associated with fragmentation.

These lands should be large blocks of un-fragmented habitat near the proposed transmission line, preferably of a diverse biogeographic nature and managed for mature forest characteristics in order to provide habitat for the many interior forest and wide-ranging species that would be adversely affected. Conservation could come in the form of fee acquisition, conservation easements, or a combination of the two. This compensation should be in addition to the approximately 2,700 acres already offered to compensate for direct impacts to wetlands in the corridor.

Such compensation should be in addition further steps to avoid and minimize wildlife habitat impacts

Sincerely,
Seth Sladek
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