



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

June 12, 2019

The 129th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 129th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1383, An Act To Amend Maine's Municipal Land Use and Eminent Domain Laws Regarding High-impact Electric Transmission Lines.

This bill sets a bad precedent for future energy investment in Maine. In effect, LD 1383 would give municipal officers control over whether eminent domain may be exercised for a large electric transmission line.

It is important for the State to have the ability to consider the broader implications of an energy infrastructure project without local veto authority. Otherwise, a small minority of interests may determine or impede the State's ability to accomplish its renewable and clean energy objectives. The New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) project, the target of this bill, will provide hundreds of millions of dollars in economic benefits to our state, fund electric vehicle charging stations, reduce electricity costs, expand broadband access, and substantially help reduce our carbon footprint. We cannot say no to every project or find new ways to impede a process that is well underway.

As Chief Executive, I promised the people of Maine that I would reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, address our carbon footprint, and accept the challenge of preventing and mitigating climate change. The NECEC project will put our state and our region on the road to a zero-carbon economy by 2050.

Regardless of my support for the NECEC proposal, I would veto this bill because it is poor public policy which sends a bad message about the way we welcome investments in the State of Maine.

For these reasons, I return LD 1383 unsigned and vetoed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Janet T. Mills'.

Janet T. Mills
Governor
State of Maine