

VI. Comments Delivered to the Maine Legislature's Joint Select Committee on Maine's Energy Future

My name is Greg Bridges and I live in Baring. I am a farmer. I am neither for nor against bill LD 1201. I am in agreement with all of the people from Washington co who testified today on the call for clear passage of LNG ships through Passamaquoddy bay and the hold off on a power corridor with New Brunswick until this is worked out.

1. Looking at the bill I see that a reduction in electrical use here in Maine is called for. I suggest that we have already made this reduction with all of the closers papers mills and other businesses lately.

2. I suggest that we find a better way to deal with environmental engineer businesses and government red tape. They are adding to much confusion to projects. We need to work on having a clear path for projects like this move forward faster. The inability to start new projects makes our Maine economy fragile. So fragile that the Maine economy reaches a tipping point sooner than other parts of the world during recessions.

3. I work for PK Float in Lincoln. They make aircraft floats. This company tried to have three phase electrical power installed with higher amperage service into the manufacturing building. Bangor Hydro quoted \$36,000.00 to go one thousand six hundred feet. PK went in another direction to work around this without spending \$36,000.00. This is overly high priced. Something must be done to create a more competitive transmission Companies that are more in touch with local Maine businesses.

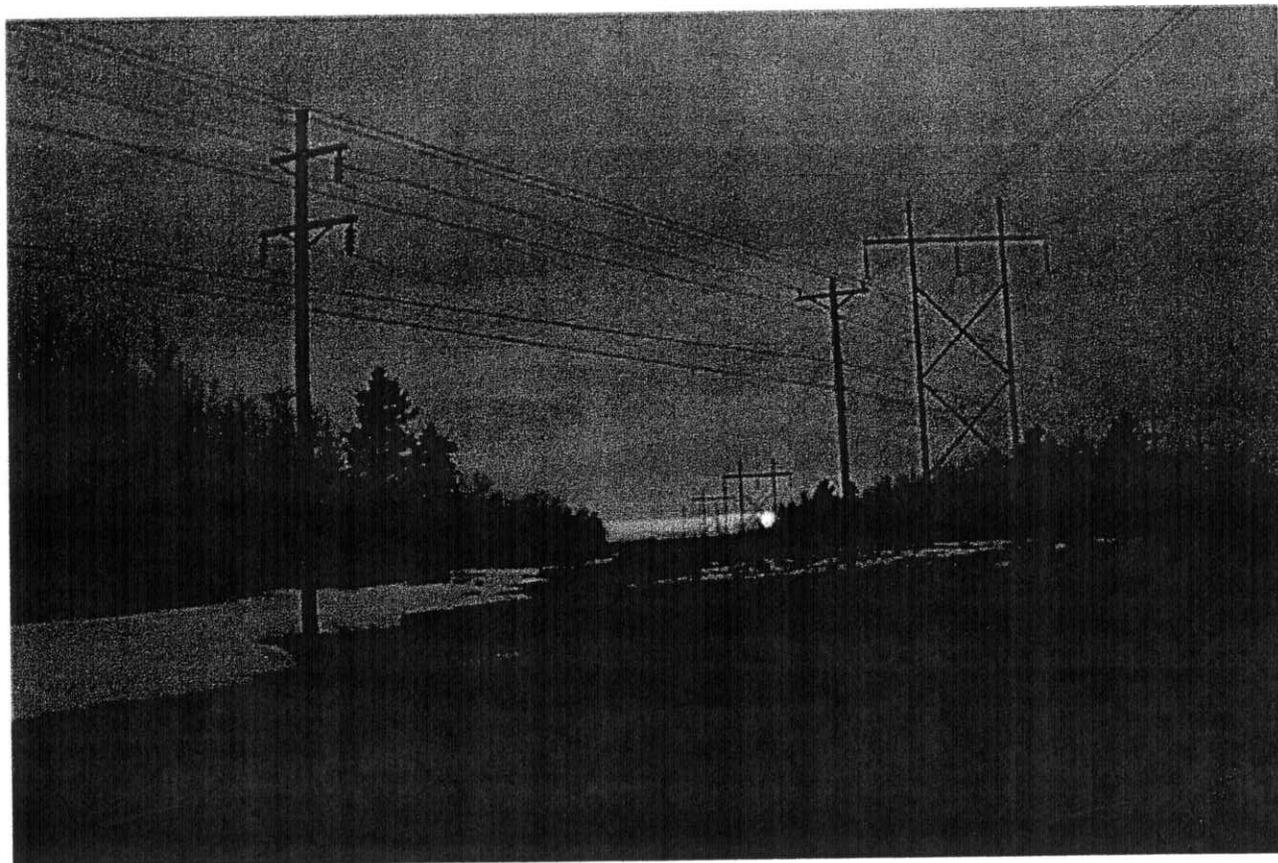
4. I show you two pictures from along US RT 1 between Baileyville and Princeton Maine. This in a picture of the new electrical lines and LNG lines coming from New Brunswick. Neither of these lines benefit businesses or homes in Washington co. You will also notice that there are no parking lots employing Maine people on these types of projects. You will also will notice that the sun is setting on the western photo in the Sunrise County. We need real jobs in Washington co not special needs of special interests.

Thank you

Greg Bridges



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mar 31 west pipe line 075_1555x1037.JPG

Thank you to the committee for hearing us today. My name is Nancy Feiner and I from Calais in Washington County. I also drove 3 ½ hours to get here but I will be brief.

Please listen and consider the remarks of Ann Perry and Kevin Rae. The people of Washington County desperately need help, we are losing our industry and there is limited work. I know only too well how hard it is to travel in order to work, I am a nurse & I work at St. Joseph's in Bangor, not everyone can leave their homes in order to receive decent pay. Please help by rejecting chapter 8A from LD1201. We do not want to become part of New Brunswick.

Thank You

I want to thank the committee for hearing my concerns re: LD 1201. I also want to thank the governor for supporting LNG in Washington County.

My name is Nancy Feiner. I am a resident of Washington County, I am also a Registered Nurse who travels to Bangor in order to work and receive a wage that will allow me to continue to reside in Calais.

Prior to approving "an act regarding Energy Independence" the following concerns need to be addressed.

Currently there are two LNG projects in the permit process in Washington County, tidal, wind mill and solar are also being worked on or in construction. Any barriers to these projects must be removed prior to passing LD 1201.

Why does our legislature consider an energy corridor to transport foreign energy across our state necessary for the "the preservation of public peace, health and safety"? Chapter 8A should be removed until studies can be done to insure it is in Maine's best interest to give a right of way to our neighbours. Maine will remain the most viable route – much more cost efficient than running north through the mountain into Quebec before entering the U.S. or running under water. Why are we committing without careful study to protect our needs, without a firm agreement allowing ships passage through Head Harbor passage.

Thank You

Prepared Statement

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Thankyou

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Craig Croman. My wife and I have lived in Baileyville, ME our entire lives. We've raised our family here and have intended to remain here. I am a former Georgia Pacific OSB employee of 20 years. Fifteen of those years I spent as a union official, including being the local president, until that facility permanently closed, laying off 200 employees. I then took a position, working at Domtar Industries paper mill for six years, until it too closed permanently and laid off another one hundred, fifty employees. As everyone is now aware, Domtar has announced the indefinite shutdown of its pulp mill, as of May 5th, which will put approximately 350 more people out on the street without jobs. I can't begin to describe how crushing this news is to Washington County.

My reason for coming to Augusta today is simple. I have serious concerns around this bill, LD 1201. An energy corridor from Canada to thru to Southern New England has great potential, however, we here in Downeast Maine have been working hard for years on our own LNG projects. Governor Baldacci has spoken in favor of these facilities, and we appreciate that, however, this bill doesn't mention our own Maine projects.

On a personal note, my 19 year old son is a medic in the US Army. He is currently deployed in Northern Iraq, just outside of Mosul. My wife and I only get to speak with him 2 or 3 times a month. Strangely enough, he called me on my cell phone while I was standing on the steps outside of this building. After explaining to him where I was and what I was doing, he gave me two messages for the committee, which is after he got over the shock of his dad testifying in Augusta. His first message was, "Hello from Iraq". The second was, "Build the LNG plants in Washington County, because we need the jobs." You see, my son, Tyler, like many other young people, wants to return home, get his college degree and eventually work and raise a family in Washington County. This can only happen if there are prospects of work opportunities, which we have none to offer currently.

As far as our Canadian neighbours are concerned, I don't blame them for wanting to be the energy provider for New England. It's about profit & economics. However, while Maine has always hired Canadians to work in our mills, plants, and other businesses, Canada has not reciprocated and hired Mainers/Americans to work in theirs. We need jobs. If energy, be it electricity, oil or LNG plants start their flow in Canada, and cross the border into New England, what happens to our local plans? Where will the opportunities for employment go?

In closing, I would ask this committee to re-write LD 1201 to include language that would protect Maine projects and Maine workers. Rushing this bill without reconsidering the ramifications it could have on our local economy could prove to be disastrous for Washington County.

Again, thank you for your time & consideration,
Craig Croman,
Baileyville, ME