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*of*  
**COMMERCE**

*The voice of Maine business*

The Honorable Melanie Loyzim  
Commissioner  
Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

*Via email to: [necec.dep@maine.gov](mailto:necec.dep@maine.gov)*

Dear Commissioner Loyzim,

On behalf of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our strong support for NECEC Transmission LLC's revised Conservation Plan.

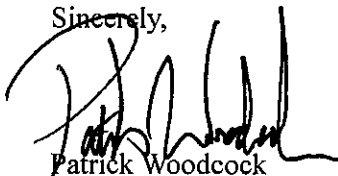
Founded in 1889, the Maine State Chamber of Commerce is Maine's largest business association, serving as *The Voice of Maine Business* on behalf of thousands of employers of all sizes and sectors across the state. The Chamber believes that it is imperative that the state create a regulatory environment that promotes economic development with clear standards of review.

The Conservation Plan, which includes the Bureau of Public Land's acknowledgment that the easement is designed to comply with the relevant terms of the Department of Environmental Protection and Board of Environmental Protection orders, demonstrates the project's commitment to environmental stewardship and effort to address concerns raised throughout the permitting process. The Plan includes a single contiguous property proposed for conservation that is adjacent to more than 400,000 acres of existing conserved lands presenting a unique opportunity for conservation. Furthermore, the outlined conditions to promote habitat connectivity and promote mature forest areas while ensuring public access all demonstrate the project's willingness to go above and beyond in meeting regulatory requirements.

At the same time, we believe this situation highlights the importance of maintaining a balanced and predictable regulatory framework. When requirements become overly burdensome or uncertain, it can discourage investment in the very types of projects Maine needs to meet its climate and economic goals. Regulatory clarity and fairness are essential to ensuring that responsible development can proceed without undue delay or cost.

We urge the Department to approve this plan and, in doing so, reinforce Maine's commitment to both environmental protection and a stable, business-friendly regulatory environment.

Sincerely,



Patrick Woodcock  
President and CEO  
Maine State Chamber of Commerce