To; Maine Department of Environmental Protection 06/13/25

From; Paul B. Frederic (former LURC director)

Re; New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) Conservation Plan

 I am contacting you in regard to the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC)conservation plan that has been submitted to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) as part of the obligations permitting the high voltage transmission line through western Maine. My interest in the project is related to professional training and experience, public service, landowner, and citizen of Maine. I am a former director of the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) and have taught land use related courses at universities in the U.S., Africa, and Asia for more than 30 years. I hold a Ph.D. in geography (Illinois) and am Professor (emeritus), University of Maine-Farmington. I served 17 years on the Starks Selectboard and several terms as a member of the Somerset County Budget Committee. I also own a farm that abuts the corridor. It has been in my family for 200 years.

 After reading the NECEC plan, I find it to be a strong commitment by NECEC to meet its MDEP requirements to fulfill its permitting agreement. The following is of particular note in my assessment: + The 50,000 acre conservation easement is contiguous to large existing blocks of conservation land in northwestern Maine. This new easement is to be managed for old growth forest sustainability and will enhance the historic ecological balance in the region to off-set negative impacts of the powerline construction.

+ The plan is a creative and well-developed example of how a private landowner (Weyerhaeuser), utility company (NECEC), and a state agency (MDEP) can work together to resolve conflicts that arise when large infrastructure projects, that benefit society, are proposed.

In conclusion, I encourage the MDEP-Bureau of Land Resources to accept this plan in full. It will help make Maine and New England a better place for future generations.

Sincerely,

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