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June 13, 2025

VIA E-MAIL

Melanie Loyzim, Commissioner
Dawn Hallowell, Land Bureau
Maine Department of Environmental
Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Via email to: necec.dep@maine.gov

RE: Industrial Energy Consumers Group

Dear Commissioner Loyzim and Ms. Hallowell:

On behalf of the Industrial Energy Consumer Group (IECG), we are writing to express its strong support for the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) 50,000-acre Conservation Plan. This initiative represents a meaningful and lasting environmental benefit that complements the broader goals of the NECEC transmission project—goals that IECG has consistently supported for their alignment with Maine's energy, economic, and climate priorities.

IECG has long advocated for energy policies that ensure affordable, reliable, and increasingly clean electricity for Maine's industrial consumers. Our support for the NECEC transmission line stems from its unique ability to deliver substantial baseload hydropower from Quebec into the New England grid. This clean, firm power source is essential for maintaining grid reliability and price stability in the region.

The Conservation Plan presents an impressive, coordinated effort between the State and the applicant to achieve an outcome that, in the Bureau of Public Lands' words, is "designed to comply with the [DEP and BEP] Orders' relevant terms" IECG also agrees with comments filed by former Maine Bureau of Environmental Protection Chairman Matt Scott (who also created the Maine Lakes Division of the DEP and is a Master Maine Guide) who said that he had "never witnessed such a large area in Maine, excluding Baxter Park, to be managed for mature forest, in perpetuity, with additional benefits and requirements in this Plan." Similarly, former State natural resource agency Directors such as Richard Barringer, Richard Anderson, Robert Gardiner, and Lloyd Irland have testified to their support for the project and its conservation planning efforts.

The experienced forestry and wildlife professionals who assisted in the development of this Plan, along with the landowner and applicant, should be proud of their work to assist the

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Commissioner Melanie Loyzim

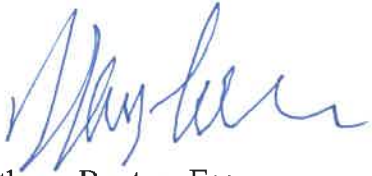
June 13, 2025

Page 2

successful completion of this important project, especially as energy prices continue to pressure Maine homes and businesses.

IECG and its members therefore respectfully urge the Department to approve the Conservation Plan, as it is consistent with the requirements of the governing Permits and Orders. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Thaler", is written over a faint, larger signature that appears to read "Anthony Buxton".

Anthony Buxton, Esq.

Jeffrey Thaler, Esq.

Counsel for IECG