

**York, Marylisa**

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**From:** Charlene Cummings <charlicme36@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 19, 2021 6:23 PM  
**To:** DEP, NECEC  
**Subject:** verbal testimony hard copy  
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enclosed please find my verbal testimony

Charli Cummings

My name is Charlene Cummings and I live in Phippsburg, Maine. I am testifying in support of a suspension of the NECEC permit pending the outcome of the law court's decision in Black v Cutko. I am a party to Black v. Cutko, and my interest in the proper management and uses of Maine's public lands is personal. My father, Bob Cummings, longtime environmental reporter for the Portland newspapers, was instrumental in recovering these lands for the people of Maine. I support a suspension because right now, CMP/NECEC is pressing on with a corridor to nowhere.

Phippsburg, the town where I live, is a peninsula. Let's pretend I have a permit to build a road from my house to Bath. When I begin construction I learn I no longer have permission to cross Timber Island to reach Bath. I'm going to put down my shovel and try to resolve that issue, or find a way up and around the Stoneybrook Road to West Bath and on to Bath, and bypass Timber Island, before I spend all kinds of money on building my road right up to the edges of Timber Island on either side. That is just common sense. Maybe I'm just a practical Mainer that way, and don't understand the ways of big international corporations...

Since CMP/NECEC does not seem to operate with a practical Maine approach, it is the duty of DEP to suspend this permit until CMP/NECEC has clear title, right and interest in the complete corridor, either by prevailing in the Black v. Cutko matter, obtaining title right and interest in an alternative route, or by obtaining the support of the Maine legislature for the substantial change in use of Maine's public lands.

Now we find ourselves in the position of having CMP contend that they have spent \$350 million and that thus they are too big to fail. By continuing with construction, CMP is arrogantly assuming that the Law Court will decide in their favor, or that they can force such a decision by continuing construction.

But the truth is neither the DEP, CMP or any of us here today have any insight into what the justices will decide. Right now, the DEP should recognize Maine's constitutional requirements for our public lands, and suspend the permit until CMP has fully met the standards for building the transmission corridor.

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