

York, Marylisa

From: Burke, Ruth A
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 2:02 PM
To: Beyer, Jim R
Subject: FW: Hearing on Powerline
Attachments: Economists Letter VERY FINAL FEb 23.pdf

Ruth Ann Burke
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Board of Environmental Protection
Commissioner's Office

From: lloyd irland <lceland@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 2:00 PM
To: Burke, Ruth A <Ruth.A.Burke@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Hearing on Powerline

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi again, Sorry, I missed one more attachment to my testimony for this evening

LCI

On Mon, Oct 18, 2021 at 9:53 AM Burke, Ruth A <Ruth.A.Burke@maine.gov> wrote:

Yes, I can add your name to the list of commentors.

I will check with Jim Beyer with the date that written testimony will close.

Ruth Ann Burke

Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Board of Environmental Protection

Commissioner's Office

From: lloyd irland <lcirland@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 9:39 AM
To: Burke, Ruth A <Ruth.A.Burke@maine.gov>
Subject: Hearing on Powerline

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Greetings,

I know I am late but wondered if there is still room for me to sign up to speak briefly at the hearing Wednesday.

This is difficult for me. As member of the Wayne Selectboard, I have an important meeting at 6:30 that evening.

Will Wednesday be the deadline for written testimony?

It may be of no particular interest now, but years ago I served as Director of the Bureau of Public Lands.

Thanks LCI

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MAINERS FOR CLEAN ENERGY JOBS – P.O. BOX 2515, AUGUSTA, MAINE 04338

February 28, 2021

Representative Robert W. Alley, Sr.
P.O. Box 263
Beals, Maine 04611

Dear Representative Alley;

As economists with decades of experience here in Maine, we write to offer our strongly supportive perspectives on the New England Clean Energy Connect project.

Maine will benefit in important ways from the Clean Energy Connect. The many categories of benefits (and related source material) are detailed at CleanEnergyJobs4Me.org/downloads. We find seven compelling reasons for all Mainers to support the corridor.

1. The Clean Energy Connect is the boldest, largest, and fastest step Maine can take toward a decarbonized, electrified future. Shifting our energy supply to renewable sources is the single most important step to reduce the threats of climate change. While we have all the power we need for today, we do not have what will be needed for tomorrow. Displacing fossil fuels will require a two to three-fold increase in our total electricity needs and supplies. The power that the Clean Energy Corridor will bring to the region will equal *two* nuclear plants the size of the now-closed Maine Yankee. Maine will draw the power it needs for a prosperous future from the regional grid.
2. Financial benefits of Clean Energy Connect for Maine, guaranteed by binding agreements and paid for by Massachusetts, Central Maine Power and Hydro-Québec, total roughly \$1.3 billion over 20 years. These will support 1,600 well-paid jobs during construction (nearly 300 Mainers are already at work) and roughly 300 jobs during operation, counting multiplier effects. Projects bringing this many jobs to rural Maine normally receive enthusiastic support, with the Governor present at the ribbon cutting. Benefits also include funding for 200 fast-charging electric vehicle stations and 3,000 heat pumps.
3. The reliability of Maine's energy supply will improve. Price spikes in the wholesale electricity market due to natural gas shortages are costly to industrial users and homeowners. The Clean Energy Connect will deliver large blocks of power, every hour of the year, on long-term contracts which will improve grid reliability and help stabilize electricity prices.
4. The Clean Energy Connect makes more renewable power feasible, further reducing greenhouse gases. A larger base of clean, reliable, always-available electricity is needed to balance increases in intermittent wind and solar capacity coming on-line. Small-scale local grids will help, but can't meet all our future needs.
5. Maine's forests and their wildlife habitats and streams are important economic assets to our state. The Maine Public Utilities Commission, the Maine Land Use Planning Commission, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Department of Energy all got it right in their careful analyses and their studied judgments that the Clean Energy Connect's environmental impacts

info@cleanenergyjobs4me.org

accord with State standards and are mitigated to an unprecedented extent.

6. Replacing fossil fuels will protect and enhance Maine's quality of life for us and our summer visitors. Fifty-five percent of Maine's population lives in our coastal counties, afflicted by haze, particulates, and other pollutants blown in from mid-western states. Many coastal Maine residents are vulnerable to air pollution. Our summer tourism economy is heavily concentrated there. Acadia ranks among the National Parks with the poorest air quality.
7. Maine is not an island. Our destiny is tied to New England and the nation. Maine is part of New England's regional electricity network – building a reliable, renewable, and sustainable electricity supply is not just Massachusetts' challenge. Maine cannot afford to be left behind! Ninety-five percent of our overnight tourists are from out of state, as are many non-resident owners of tax-paying properties. Every year, thousands of Maine people from across the state rely on major medical facilities beyond our borders to meet their urgent health care needs.

For all these reasons, we hope you will join us in supporting the New England Clean Energy Connect project.

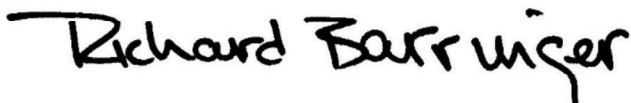
.Sincerely,



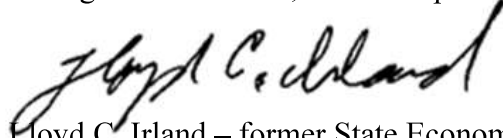
Steve Adams – former State Economist and Director, State Planning Office



John Dorrer – former Director, Center for Workforce Research and Information and Acting Commissioner, Maine Dept. of Labor



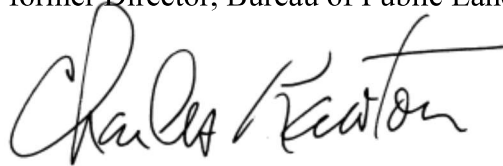
Richard Barringer – Professor Emeritus, Muskie School of Public Service; former Director, Maine State Planning Office



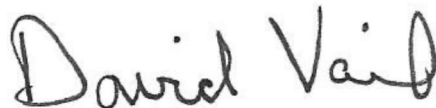
Lloyd C. Irland – former State Economist; former Director, Bureau of Public Lands



Charles S. Colgan – former State Economist; Professor Emeritus, Muskie School of Public Service*



Charles T. Lawton – former Director of Economic Planning, State Planning Office



David Vail – Professor Emeritus, Economics Department and former Director of Environmental Studies, Bowdoin College

*Dr. Colgan is Senior Associate with the Maine Center for Business and Economic research, University of Southern Maine, who conducted a 2017 study for Central Maine Power on the economic impacts of the Clean Energy Connect.

Impacts of NECEC on Maine Economy			
Benefit		Time Period	Amount, \$ Million
Development and construction*		2017-2022	589
Operation and maintenance*		2023-2037	436
PUC Settlement Agreement		Cum. Total	250
Governor's discount agreement		Cum. total	40
Mitigation Land (est.)**		Total	20
		Grand total	1,335
*Total economic impact			
** 40,000 acres of managed forest			
Note: estimated \$18 million/yr property taxes not included			