

York, Marylisa

From: Burke, Ruth A
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 8:18 AM
To: DEP, NECEC
Subject: FW: testimony re: suspension of NECEC licensing

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

From: Lisa Savage <lsavage3@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 19, 2021 6:13 AM
To: Burke, Ruth A <Ruth.A.Burke@maine.gov>
Subject: testimony re: suspension of NECEC licensing

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.

To the Maine Department of Environmental Protection:

We are in the midst of a global climate crisis that is already affecting Maine's food supply. Protecting forests was at the top of the list during the recent international COP 26 climate conference. The people of Maine understand the truth about the NECEC project and a strong majority of us voted to halt this harmful and deceitful project.

The NECEC is touted as clean energy. It is anything but. Cutting down trees to run an extension cord from Quebec to Massachusetts is not green. Trees sequester carbon, while cutting them in large quantities hastens climate crisis. Also, hydropower generated by the mega dams of Hydro-Quebec drowns areas the size of Ireland killing many more acres of trees in a way that produces methane from the submerged vegetation. And, if you read the fine print in the agreement, Hydro-Quebec may in fact sell Massachusetts power from any source via the transmission line. So coal or gas plants that generate electricity can be brought into the mix at Hydro-Quebec's discretion.

My husband and I drove up to hike Houston Brook Falls recently, a rare and beautiful spot that is loved by many and emblematic of why our state has long been Vacationland. On the road to the falls we encountered the ugly cutting and already erected massive steel towers of the NECEC. We were thrilled when Maine voters rejected this project at the polls on November 2. Now we are dismayed but not surprised that CMP continues clear cutting in violation of the people's will. They and their corporate owners are suing the state and have announced rate hikes of 80% for electricity, after spending tens of millions of dollars on their failed advertising campaign promoting the NECEC.

Our state government must fulfill the will of the majority of people in Maine: protect the environment. We expect the DEP to do this on behalf of our grandchildren who will experience severe climate impacts. We expect you to do this on behalf of the many Mainers whose livelihood depends on tourism. Suspend the licensing for NECEC now. They have not received the approval of 2/3 of Maine's legislature as required by our constitution for the use of public lands. This illegal project must be halted immediately.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Savage
Solon

--

Read my blog: "[Went2theBridge](#)"

Twitter: [@naturalguard](#)

Take the [Natural Guard pledge](#)