



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **License Suspension Proceeding Public Hearing Fourth Procedural Order Public Comment**

Good evening, Commissioner Loyzim. I am Nicole Grohoski of Ellsworth, and I represent the communities of Ellsworth and Trenton in the Maine House. I appreciate the opportunity to provide public comment on the NECEC License Suspension Proceeding.

On November 2, 59% of voters in my district voted yes on ballot question one -- the same rate at which all Maine voters rejected Central Maine Power's NECEC project. In a ballot question where all Maine voters can weigh in, Maine citizens no longer require that their wishes be interpreted by elected officials or those appointed by elected officials. To put it succinctly – the people have spoken, and now we all must listen and act accordingly.

The ballot question defines three different conditions under which the NECEC project will become illegal when the law goes into effect in less than one month. One of those conditions has previously been subject to your review because the Superior Court already found it illegal – the public lands lease granted by the Bureau of Parks and Lands without Legislative approval.

On November 5, you informed NECEC Transmission and Central Maine Power that the referendum results represented a change in circumstances for the project's license and further stated that you have the authority to revoke or suspend a license upon making this finding. The results of the referendum have now been certified and it is scheduled to become law on December 19, making the future more clear for all involved.

Last Friday, NECEC president, Thorn Dickinson, stated that the company would temporarily stop new construction until the Superior Court rules on its appeal of the ballot question. Many voters expected CMP to take this proactive action on November 3rd to honor the will of the voters and save their own money, too. After accelerating cutting for 17 days for their “corridor to nowhere,” this announcement feels a bit like, “too little, too late,” but I’ll be generous and say instead, “it’s never too late to do the right thing.”

Because CMP and NECEC Transmission are not legally required to halt construction, I ask you, as DEP Commissioner, to revoke or suspend CMP's permit to construct the NECEC in light of the change of circumstances – there is no longer a known path forward for this project, so the destruction must not just stop, but be stopped. Maine people expect formal action from their

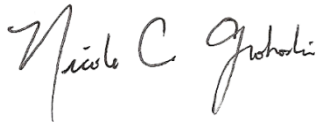
government to protect our shared resources, not just the non-binding goodwill gestures of multinational corporations hoping to save their polluted public image.

The DEP must not set the concerning precedent that it will not act on a change of circumstance to protect Maine's lands and waters and instead wait for a corporation to act on its own accord. DEP inaction to date can be partially cured by immediate action.

Many people I represent are concerned that government does not work for them, but for those with more money and more power. Every day, I work hard to restore their faith in government, by hearing and acting upon their concerns, as I'm doing here tonight. That is my job as an elected representative, but I believe it is also the job of all who serve in Maine State Government. Commissioner Loyzim, by immediately revoking or suspending the NECEC permit, you have the opportunity to not only use your authority appropriately and as required, but to take a positive step to restore Maine people's faith that Maine government works for them and not for wealthy, foreign corporate interests.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment and I would be pleased to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole C Grohoski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N" and "G".

Nicole Grohoski