

1 STATE OF MAINE
2 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
3 AND
4 MAINE LAND USE PLANNING COMMISSION

5 IN THE MATTER OF
6 CENTRAL MAINE POWER COMPANY'S
7 NEW ENGLAND CLEAN ENERGY CONNECT PROJECT

8 NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT
9 SITE LOCATION OF DEVELOPMENT ACT
10 SITE LAW CERTIFICATION

11 EVENING HEARING - DAY 2

12 TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2019

13 PRESIDING OFFICER: SUSANNE MILLER

14 Reported by Lorna M. Prince, a Notary Public and
15 court reporter in and for the State of Maine, on April
16 2, 2019, at the University of Maine at Farmington
17 Campus, 111 South Street, Farmington, Maine, commencing
18 at 6:00 p.m.

19 REPRESENTING DEP:

20 GERALD REID, COMMISSIONER, DEP

21 PEGGY BENSINGER, OFFICE OF THE MAINE ATTORNEY GENERAL

22 JAMES BEYER, REGIONAL LICENSING & COMPLIANCE MGR, DEP

23 MARK BERGERON, DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF LAND RESOURCES

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25

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19 Intervenors:

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21 Group 1:

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23 Friends of Boundary Mountains

24 Maine Wilderness Guides

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27 Designated Spokesperson:

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8 Maine Guide Services
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20 City of Lewiston
21 International Brotherhood of Electrical
22 Workers, Local 104
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2 Intervenors (cont.):

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4 Group 10:

5 Edwin Buzzell
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7 Carrie Carpenter, Eric Sherman, Kathy Barkley,
8 Kim Lyman, Mandy Farrar, Matt Wagner,
9 Noah Hale, Taylor Walker and Tony DiBlasi

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1 REPRESENTING LUPC:

2 EVERETT WORCESTER, COMMISSIONER, CHAIR

3 LAUREN PARKER, LEGAL COUNSEL

4 NICHOLAS LIVESAY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

5 BILL GILMORE, COMMISSIONER

6 DURWARD HUMPHREY, COMMISSIONER

7 BETSY FITZGERALD, COMMISSIONER

8 ROBERT EVERETT, COMMISSIONER

9 MILLARD BILLINGS, COMMISSIONER

10 BILL HINKLE, REG SUPERVISOR

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1 well as additional construction on a separate line in
2 parts of southern Maine. The purpose of the New
3 England Clean Energy Connect project line would be to
4 deliver up to 1200 megawatts of electricity from
5 hydropower generating facilities in Quebec, Canada to
6 the New England power grid.

7 Portions of the proposed project will be in
8 the following municipalities, Alna, Anson, Caratunk,
9 Chesterville, Cumberland, Durham, Embden, Farmington,
10 Greene, Industry, Jay, Leeds, Lewiston, Livermore
11 Falls, Moscow, New Gloucester, New Sharon, Pownal,
12 Starks, Whitefield, Wilton, Windsor, Wiscasset and
13 Woolwich.

14 In addition, the proposed project line would
15 traverse the following townships and plantations,
16 Appleton Township, Bald Mountain Township, Beattie
17 Township, Bradstreet Township, Concord Township,
18 Hobbstown Township, Johnson Mountain Township,
19 Lowelltown Township, Merrill Strip Township, Moxie
20 Gore, Parlin Pond Township, Skinner Township, T5 R7 BKP
21 WKR and West Forks Plantation.

22 Portions of the proposed project will abut
23 boundaries of T5 R6 BKP WKR, Haynestown, The Forks
24 Plantation and Pleasant Ridge Plantation.

25 The purpose of the hearing is to receive

1 evidence from the Applicant, Interveners and members of
2 the public regarding the applications submitted by
3 Central Maine Power for a Natural Resource Protection
4 Act permit and site location of Development Act Permit.

5 The Land Use Planning Commission must certify
6 to the Department whether one, the proposed project is
7 an allowed use in any area for which it is proposed
8 that is within the Commission's jurisdiction, and two,
9 that the proposed project meets any land use standard
10 established by the Commission that is not considered in
11 the Department's site law review.

12 This week the Department is holding a public
13 hearing on CMP's proposed NECEC project. The
14 Commission and Department have separate roles with
15 regard to review of the proposed project; however, due
16 to anticipated overlap in factual testimony relevant to
17 the review both of the Commission and the Department,
18 the Commission's -- we are holding a joint proceeding.
19 The Commission's portion of the public hearing is
20 today, April 2nd, and the DEP's portion of the
21 proceeding is throughout the week.

22 My name is Susanne Miller. I am the director
23 for the Eastern Maine Regional Office for the
24 Department. I have designated the presiding officer
25 for this matter by the commissioner of the Department.

1 This designation is limited in its scope to the
2 authority necessary to conduct the hearing and
3 administer governing procedural statutes and
4 regulations in the development of the administrative
5 record. My role does not include the ultimate
6 decisionmaking authority on the merits of the
7 application, which the Commissioner expressly detains.

8 Joining me from the Department of
9 Environmental Protection this evening are Commissioner
10 Jerry Reid; Jim Beyer, who's the project manager for
11 the NECEC project; Mark Stebbins, the director of Land
12 Management; we also have in the audience David Madore,
13 our communications director; April Kirkland and Doris
14 Peaslee are here supporting us for administrative
15 support; we are also joined by Peggy Bensinger,
16 Assistant Attorney General and counsel for the
17 Department. I'll now invite the Land Use Planning
18 Commission to introduce themselves.

19 EVERETT WORCESTER: My name is Everett
20 Worcester and I am the commissioner -- commission chair
21 and presiding officer for this hearing and I reside in
22 Piscataquis County and now I'd like to have the other
23 LUPC folks up here introduce themselves and we'll start
24 with Betsy.

25 BETSY FITZGERALD: Betsy Fitzgerald,

1 Washington County.

2 BILL GILMORE: Bill Gilmore, Freeman
3 Township, Franklin County.

4 BILL HINKEL: Bill Hinkel, Land Use
5 Planning Commission staff.

6 NICHOLAS LIVESAY: Nicholas Livesay,
7 director of Land Use Planning Commission.

8 LAUREN PARKER: Lauren Parker, attorney
9 general's office, counsel for the Commission.

10 MILLARD BILLINGS: Millard Billings,
11 Hancock County.

12 DURWARD HUMPHREY: Durward Humphrey,
13 Aroostook County, thank you.

14 MS. MILLER: Also not part of these
15 proceedings, I wanted to let everybody know that we
16 have Jay Clement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
17 Jay is standing up right now in case anyone has any
18 questions about the federal process related to this
19 application.

20 The criteria on which the Department is
21 hearing testimony for consideration tonight are limited
22 to a certain group of the licensing criteria.
23 Testimony provided to the Department this evening by
24 the public must be limited to the following criteria,
25 scenic character and existing uses, wildlife habitat

1 and fisheries, alternatives analysis, compensation and
2 mitigation including -- compensation and mitigation.

3 Criteria to be addressed at this hearing for
4 the Department are free to look at, I think they put
5 them on the table in the hallway -- no, at the back
6 table over there, okay. So at the back table over
7 there you'll see a copy of -- a list of the criteria
8 that are applicable to the Department's hearing if you
9 would like to take a look.

10 If you wish to comment on other criteria
11 which the applicant must meet to get approval from the
12 Department for this proposed project, you may send
13 written comments to the Department to Mr. Jim Beyer
14 until the close of the record, which we'll explain at
15 the close of this evening.

16 MR. HINKEL: Within the area served by
17 the Commission, the proposed project crosses or
18 traverses three separate Recreation Protection, or P-RR
19 subdistricts; one at the site for the proposed Kennebec
20 River Crossing; one near Beattie Pond and another near
21 the Appalachian Trail. Within a P-RR subdistrict, the
22 utility facility is allowed by special exception. The
23 public comments directed to the Commission this evening
24 are intended to focus on the portion of the project
25 proposed in the subdistrict and aid the Commission in

1 its valuation of whether the special exception criteria
2 have been meet.

3 For the Commission to find a use is allowed
4 by special exception, the Commission must find that an
5 applicant has shown by substantial evidence that A,
6 there is no alternative site, which is both suitable to
7 the proposed use and reasonably available for the
8 applicant. B, the use can be buffered from those other
9 uses and resources within the subdistrict with which it
10 is incompatible. And C, such other conditions are met
11 that the Commission may reasonably impose in accordance
12 with the policies of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

13 The two hearing topics applicable to the
14 Commission's role in certifying the proposed project
15 are one, scenic character and existing uses, and two,
16 alternative analysis.

17 MS. MILLER: Our hearing today is being
18 transcribed by Dostie Reporting Service. At the end of
19 this row here you'll see Lorna who is going to be
20 transcribing everything for us. So in order to ensure
21 an accurate transcript, I may ask you to clarify the
22 pronunciation or spelling of your name. I'm going to
23 ask you to speak clearly and I may need to ask you to
24 repeat yourself. And please keep in mind speak slowly
25 so we can catch everything.

1 If you wish to speak, please sign in on the
2 appropriate sign-in sheet, which is just outside this
3 auditorium. We have three sign-in sheets, in support
4 of, in opposition to and neutral, so we ask you to
5 please sign in on the appropriate sheet.

6 How I'm going to do this is I'm going to call
7 eight names at a time from the sign-in sheets and I'm
8 going to ask four people to line up on each side behind
9 the mics. This is to ensure that we can go through
10 this a little more quickly and also ensure that
11 everybody has an opportunity to speak who wants to. I
12 do ask that you don't stand in front of the mics
13 because we're live streaming this from that camera over
14 there and we want to make sure that nobody is blocked.

15 So to ensure that everyone gets an
16 opportunity to speak, those who wish to testify will
17 have three minutes. We have a timekeeper who will let
18 me know when your time is up and I will expect you to
19 wrap up quickly once I let you know your time is about
20 up. Please be concise so that everyone has a chance to
21 speak. Please focus your testimony on the Department
22 and the Commission's criteria and again, please don't
23 block the aisle and please remember to stand behind the
24 mic.

25 Prior to presenting your testimony, please

1 state or clarify your name because there's a chance I
2 may mispronounce it based on what I'm reading on the
3 sheet. Please identify where you're from, or who
4 you're affiliated with, and please make sure all your
5 testimony is directed to this table. Do not speak or
6 address the audience, just this table.

7 During this hearing there will be no signs,
8 no booing, no cheering or clapping allowed. If you
9 brought written testimony and you would like to submit
10 it to the folks on the Commission and the Department, I
11 ask you to place it -- there should be a box up front,
12 or Mr. Madore, can you just stand so everyone can see
13 you? Please provide it to Mr. Madore up front and he
14 will collect that. Also please remember to put your
15 name on your testimony so we know where it comes from
16 in case we have any questions.

17 All participants in the public hearing this
18 evening are expected to conduct themselves
19 professionally toward the Department, toward the
20 Commission, toward each other and the general public as
21 well as to the University staff and any students you
22 might see throughout these proceedings. If a member of
23 the general public is unable to conduct themselves
24 professionally, I will take appropriate action, which
25 may include excluding the individual from further

1 participation, or have them escorted out.

2 At this time I ask you to please silence or
3 turn off your electronic devices, including cell phones
4 so that there are no interruptions. As a logistical
5 matter, the emergency exits to this room are located in
6 the back of the room the way you came in. The
7 restrooms are located towards the left side of the
8 hallway as you first come into the building.

9 All witnesses at this hearing will be sworn
10 and all evidence already entered into the record will
11 be available during the course of a public hearing for
12 inspection by anyone who wishes to do so. Witnesses
13 testifying this evening are subject to
14 cross-examination by the parties, by the Department and
15 by the Commission. I will expect the parties to let me
16 know if they would like to cross-examine any of the
17 witnesses this evening.

18 A copy of the project file is located up on
19 the table to my right up there by the exit. If anyone
20 would like to take a look at it, it's there for public
21 review.

22 After the hearing, the public file will be
23 available for public review by arrangement during
24 regular business hours at the Department's Bangor
25 office.

1 At this time I ask all persons planning to
2 testify to stand and raise their right hand. Do you
3 swear or affirm that the testimony you are about to
4 give is the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

5 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: I do.

6 MS. MILLER: Thank you. I may have to
7 do that periodically as people show up.

8 So with that I'm going to call the first
9 eight people, and I'd appreciate it if you can, like I
10 said, try to line up four on each side. It will just
11 really help with making this run a little bit more
12 smoothly. So I've got Duane Hanson, Jack Nicholas,
13 Helena Kelley and Daryl Kelley, Steve Robe, Christopher
14 Ayres, David Hyde and Jay Clement -- oh, not Jay. I'm
15 really struggling on deciphering handwriting, somebody
16 from the Farmington Flyer, starts with a D.

17 DARBY MURNANE: That's me. I'll be
18 reserving my questions as I move forward. We're
19 reporting on this for the campus newspaper.

20 MS. BENSINGER: You don't want to
21 testify?

22 DARBY MURNANE: I'm here to ask
23 impartial questions at any given point when it's
24 appropriate to speak.

25 MS. MILLER: So this is an opportunity

1 for public testimony, not questions.

2 DARBY MURNANE: Got it, okay.

3 MS. MILLER: Mario Carrier. So please
4 correct me if I said anything wrong. I do apologize if
5 I butchered anybody's name. We'll start with Duane
6 Hanson.

7 DUANE HANSON: I'm Duane Hanson. We
8 live at T5 R7. The power line is coming close to where
9 we live. I've lived there for a very long time and
10 raised a family there. We basically live off the land,
11 grow a big garden, eat the fish and hunt for food and
12 make brown ash baskets and handmade knots. I hope
13 everyone will wake up to the fact that this project is
14 all about money, profits for a big corporation.

15 There's been a lot of lies told. Global
16 warming has been used to drive this project through,
17 but when you look at all the facts, they don't add up.
18 What we have to realize is what we have here in Maine,
19 the last of the big woods. We need to protect this for
20 the future for people to enjoy. Thank you.

21 MS. MILLER: Thank you very much. I
22 think what we'll do is alternate, so I'll just ask you
23 to introduce yourself, if you don't mind.

24 HELENA KELLEY: I'm Helena Kelley.

25 MS. MILLER: Can you speak a little

1 louder into the mic because the transcriptionist needs
2 to hear you.

3 HELENA KELLEY: Hello? Is this good?
4 I'm Helena Kelley and --

5 MS. MILLER: Can you put it almost like
6 you're talking on it? You're doing good.

7 HELENA KELLEY: Hello, my name is
8 Helena. I'm 11 years old. I live in Portland, Maine
9 and I oppose CMP's power line. My father's family is
10 from the Solon and Jackman area. My great, great
11 grandfather, Henry Redmond, was a hunter and a trapper.
12 The land is very important to my family and not to be
13 taken for granted.

14 The corridor will cut right through this
15 land. It will cut straight through his trapping line
16 and the areas he explored. The land up there is
17 gorgeous and home to many animals.

18 MS. MILLER: I'm sorry to interrupt you,
19 I just really need you to speak up because we can't
20 hear you and neither can the transcriptionist.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can somebody read it
22 for her?

23 HELENA KELLEY: Hello, my name is
24 Helena. I am eleven years old. I live in Portland,
25 Maine and I oppose CMP's power line. My father's

1 family is from the Solon and Jackman area. My great
2 great grandfather, Henry Redmond, was a hunter and
3 trapper. This land is very important to my family and
4 not to be taken for granted. The corridor will cut
5 right through this land. It will cut straight through
6 his trapping line and the areas he explored. The land
7 up there is gorgeous and home to many animals, both
8 large and small. It will cut straight through a large
9 brook trout habitat.

10 Tourists come to Maine to see the ocean and
11 the beautiful land, not 53 miles of metal. It isn't
12 just tourists that love our land, We Mainers love it
13 too. There is no benefit to Mainers from the CMP
14 corridor. I don't understand why people would ruin
15 this amazing environment. The woods are beautiful and
16 the woods are part of many of our culture.

17 Take a moment to imagine Maine without its
18 forests, without its natural beauty, without its
19 critters and natural sounds. Is this what you want?
20 It's definitely not what I want. It's definitely not
21 what my family wants. It's not what many, many Mainers
22 want. Please do not approve CMP's corridor.

23 MS. MILLER: Thank you very much. No
24 clapping.

25 JACK NICHOLS: My name is Jack Nicholas.

1 I live in Winthrop and I own land in Upper Enchanted
2 Township. That would be about two miles from the
3 proposed 53.8 miles of the transmission corridor. I
4 would recommend the Commission to require CMP to place
5 the transmission cables underground and underwater,
6 which has been the preferred approach for HVDC
7 transmission lines, and I refer to the pre-filed
8 testimony of Christopher Russo.

9 Undergrounding the transmission lines will
10 allow this project to overcome many serious
11 deficiencies by realizing advantages over above ground
12 lines including the following, reduces significantly
13 negative environment or natural resource impacts of
14 overhead transmission lines by substantially narrowing
15 the path of the proposed transmission corridor from
16 150 feet wide to between one meter and ten meters wide,
17 avoids negative impacts on important scenic views and
18 scenic character, eliminates probable reductions in
19 property values for families near and around the new
20 53.8 miles of transmission corridor, minimizes effects
21 on wildlife from electromagnetic fields, eliminates
22 threats to low flying aircraft, minimizes damage from
23 windy and severe weather conditions, decreases the risk
24 of wild fires, increases the useful life of the
25 transmission lines by twice that of overhead

1 transmission lines and reduces the maintenance cost
2 compared to overhead transmission lines.

3 And in my testimony I've included a
4 spreadsheet that does a life cycle cost analysis that
5 shows that the cost of undergrounding is, in my
6 opinion, pretty minimal in relation to the corporate
7 resources.

8 Under proposed compensation for impacts,
9 there's no amount of compensation mitigation that could
10 offset the immense damage that this proposed 53.8 miles
11 of new transmission corridor would cost. A recent
12 article stated that CMP had offered 2,800 acres of
13 conservation land, although 1,997 scattered parcels as
14 far as 107 miles appears in the official record.
15 Regardless, that land would only offset the use of
16 public reserve land with a lease agreement with the
17 Maine Bureau of Parks and Public Land.

18 If there was a fair market value, it would
19 require CMP to contribute 40,000 acres based on the
20 testimony of John McMann, conversation land to offset
21 the damage up to one kilometer beyond the edges of the
22 proposed 150 foot wide corridor, and that would not
23 cover the damage of scenic views and the tourism
24 economy.

25 The \$254 million stipulation is an illusion

1 of compensation since the payout spans many years, up
2 to 40 years making it worth 35 cents a month for each
3 CMP customer on a net present value basis. That
4 concludes my testimony.

5 MS. MILLER: I was just going to ask you
6 if you were about to wrap up and it sounds like you
7 were about to. Thank you, I'm sorry.

8 DARYL KELLEY: Thank you for this
9 opportunity. My name is Daryl Kelley. I'm from
10 Portland, carpenter and registered Maine Guide, and I'm
11 very much opposed to this project, the corridor. I've
12 been exploring this area over the past five or so years
13 following the travels of my great grandfather, Henry
14 Redmond, following his travels through anecdotes in his
15 diaries. And he was a trapper, a Maine Guide and a
16 State Game Warden active in this area from 1900 through
17 the 1940s. I witnessed some of the things he wrote
18 about, others are long gone. This area is a special
19 gem for Maine. It's got eight peaks over 3,000 feet
20 with spectacular views from some of them, numerous
21 peaks in the 2,000 to 3,000 foot range, ponds, streams,
22 vernal pools, little valleys, notches, sporting camps
23 that have been a Maine tradition for 150 years.

24 All of this is at risk from the corridor,
25 waterways muddy polluted by herbicides, animal habitats

1 gone. Some say the woods are not pristine or prime
2 evil, they are. They've been logged for generations.
3 Hopefully they'll continued to be logged for
4 generations. There's still wilderness that all sorts
5 of critters depend upon.

6 When you cut down a tree, another one will
7 take its place with good forestry practices. The
8 corridor will not disappear into the ground once its
9 usefulness, which is dubious, is gone, neither will the
10 impact done by the clearing, the herbicides filling the
11 wetlands in the air and visually from the summits and
12 the ground is a scar.

13 A lot of people come to Maine to be in the
14 wilderness to charge their souls. This area has that
15 potential as parks in the state and elsewhere become
16 more crowded, and to give this away to a business
17 entity, a foreign entity at that is totally egregious.

18 Paul Whitman said now I see the secret of
19 making the best person is to go in the open air and eat
20 and sleep with the earth. If the corridor goes
21 through, I fear the quote that we'll be hearing from
22 future generations will be why did they let this
23 happen. Thank you.

24 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

25 STEVE ROBE: Good evening, ladies and

1 gentlemen. My name is Steve Robe. I live in
2 Waterville, Maine. I have a bachelor's and a master of
3 science in forestry. I'm a Maine licensed professional
4 forester. I was a senior forester for Scott Paper,
5 S.D. Warren, SAPPI Concrete land base from 1990 until
6 2017. And in case you're new to the area, that's
7 27 years on the same land.

8 Since then I've been working as a land agent
9 for Dirigo Partners Limited. Dirigo Partners Limited
10 is a Maine corporation and it's a contract through the
11 Central Maine Power Company. During this time I work
12 mainly in the western mountains and I've also spent
13 plenty of time practicing industrial forestry in the
14 townships involved with the new portion of the NECEC
15 project, Skinner Township, and by that I mean Skinner
16 Township heading back east towards the Kennebec Gorge
17 and West Forks.

18 This evening I'm speaking on my own behalf
19 because of my long running experience on this land. I
20 know where the corridor is. I know where the timber
21 roads go and I know the nature of the industrial
22 working forest in that area. I've heard people say
23 that the NECEC corridor is located within a road with
24 pristine wilderness. That's confusing to me. I wonder
25 if we're talking about the same industrial working

1 forest where I spent 27 years practicing industrial
2 forestry. I may have spent more time on the ground in
3 the area of the corridor than almost anyone involved
4 this hearing, maybe top three anyway. I have concluded
5 that the idea of a road with pristine wilderness is a
6 myth being perpetuated by a project falling under the
7 assumption that a lot of people won't know any better.
8 Well, I know better and I respectfully suggest that you
9 should too.

10 The NECEC corridor is located in an
11 aggressively and sustainably managed industrial working
12 forest that has been used primarily for timber
13 production since the 1800s. The NECEC corridor is
14 filled with high speed primary and secondary forest
15 management roads and skid trails that were built by the
16 owners of the land and moved with the market.

17 Creating 1,200 megawatts of clean energy into
18 the grid in Lewiston, Maine through a privately owned
19 industrial working forest landscape seems like good
20 planning to me. We need to remember that the real
21 threat here is not taking realistic and timely action
22 on climate change.

23 I have every faith that the regulatory
24 process will sift through the fictions around this
25 project and will make a decision based on sound science

1 and realistic and timely actions, not conjecture.

2 I hope my testimony has helped. Thank you
3 for your time you're investing in reviewing this
4 important project. Thank you.

5 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

6 CHRISTOPHER AYRES: Hi, my name is
7 Christopher Ayres. I live in Pownal, Maine and I'm
8 familiar with this region hereabouts. I've canoed the
9 Moose and the Beattie, the waters of Flagstaff, Brass
10 Wood, Little Big Wood, Poland, Beattie, Kennebago and
11 more. I've driven the woods road and the main roads
12 throughout the area. I have flown over the entire
13 region countless times in the last 40 years to
14 photograph it for newspaper articles, conservation
15 organizations and various other projects.

16 I see Maine and the world as an
17 environmentalist, an avid bird watcher and as a lover
18 of the outdoors. Already in my backyard on the coast
19 of Maine and around Baxter Park, which I routinely
20 visit, I see firsthand undeniable changes in bird
21 migration patterns in food sources such as insects. It
22 is clear to me that global climate change is the
23 expediential crisis of our time.

24 I support this corridor project to bring
25 renewable energy to the New England Power Group. It

1 will not, as some environmentalists and environmental
2 organizations maintain, sound a deaf mill to the
3 regions for it. It will not irreparably fracture the
4 integrity of the region's forest lands. There will be
5 local effects to be sure, as with any energy project,
6 but this corridor will not spell disaster to all the
7 birds, the fish, the animals in the forest or the
8 people of this area.

9 This energy project does address an eminent
10 capacity to climate change. We all see daily reminders
11 of the widespread catastrophic effects of climate
12 change and global warming. The United Nations issued a
13 urgent call to action in its 2018 special report. The
14 secretary general of the UN said this report by the
15 world's leading scientist is an ear splitting wake-up
16 call to the world. It confirms that climate change is
17 running faster than we are and we are running out of
18 time. We are running out of time.

19 We have 12 years to reduce the carbon
20 emissions by 50 percent, 12 years in the whole world,
21 12 years in New England, 12 years in Maine or we will
22 really start to see increased catastrophe. This energy
23 project represents a first step towards that goal that
24 we can implement virtually overnight. Of course this
25 is first -- this is just the first step, but it is a

1 highly effective first step. We cannot wait. We must
2 start right now. We must deal with the facts and
3 accept reality and move forward to protect ourselves,
4 our children and our ecosystems by supporting the
5 corridor to bring clean energy to Maine and New
6 England. Thank you.

7 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

8 DAVID HYDE: My name is David Hyde. I
9 live in Pownal as well. I'm not an advocate for CMP,
10 but I am an advocate for the environment and for the
11 future of my daughters and their children and their
12 grandchildren. I was against the CMP project because I
13 looked at it as another project that would increase the
14 cost of electricity and force this process into our
15 lives.

16 This project is a point of conflict for me
17 personally, as I am sure it is for many others, you can
18 see by the signs around here. What I hadn't realized
19 is the long-term benefits of this proposal outweigh the
20 short-term costs. If we're serious about addressing
21 the removal of carbon from our atmosphere and
22 maintaining a regular supply of electricity, we need to
23 make some tough decisions.

24 I love the outdoors. I spent most of my life
25 hiking, canoeing, fishing, paddling. I started and ran

1 a nonprofit specifically to go to the people in the
2 Maine woods as a place of renewal and healing and it is
3 my source of joy and serenity.

4 The power gives us the best short-term boost
5 to address climate concerns, lower costs of
6 electricity, our cost of electricity, substantial
7 financial plans to towns and to residents. We have to
8 make a move to clean, reliable supply of electrons.

9 Our lifestyles necessitate that availability.
10 There are costs to making this happen, the forest being
11 cut, for example, but the cost of building more natural
12 gas pipe lines to the generation facilities or nuclear
13 facilities will be more by Maine taxpayers, rate
14 payers. We do not need more nuclear and that will not
15 survive in New England.

16 We are benefitting from -- we are also
17 benefitting in this if we move to the hydro to the
18 reduction of our electric bills -- are not delivering
19 lower prices to Maine or New England. They're not
20 looking to lower our carbon footprint. They're not
21 looking to service low income customers. They're not
22 concerned about the rivers, the lakes or the forests.
23 They want to grow the bottom line, which I understand,
24 but at what cost to Maine?

25 Quebec-Hydro production capacity now is

1 capable of increasing that capacity in the long term is
2 reducing a carbon footprint to potentially all people
3 in Maine. Maine needs to be a leader and not a
4 follower. The State of Maine's logo, though I'm sure
5 you all know, is I need. So let's be leaders, leaders
6 for the state, leaders for the citizens and leaders for
7 our health.

8 MS. MILLER: Thank you. I'm going to
9 call another eight people. I do apologize for making
10 many of you stand, so if anybody has any issues with
11 standing, please let me know and maybe we can have them
12 go up right away so they don't need to stand the whole
13 time. We're going to start with Kerry Hegarty, Sandra
14 Howard, Dot Kelly, Theresa York, Mario Carrier, John
15 Fairlene -- Fontaine, and Peter Champion and Judy Diaz.

16 KERRY HEGARTY: My name is Kerry
17 Hegarty. I'm from Jackman. I own Superior Boundary
18 Line Renewal. I mark property lines and I thank you
19 for letting me speak tonight. This letter is to the
20 Maine DEP and LUPC in opposition to CMP's New England
21 Clean Energy Connect Proposal.

22 Permitting a new transmission corridor in
23 this beautiful remote area will open a can of worms in
24 many ways. Once NECEC is in, there is basically
25 nothing to stop the wind industry from using the

1 corridor causing much more environmental damage. It
2 would be a ticket to grid access for Somerset County
3 Wind Development. Once the DC line is permitted, the
4 stage is set for adjacent wind transmission lines.

5 There are 115 streams with native brook trout
6 in them that would be affected by this corridor. The
7 new corridor is located well within a half mile of
8 seven state heritage fish waters. They are ponds with
9 native brook trout in them. They are Beattie, Rock,
10 Iron, Grace, Mountain Number Two, Wilson Hill and
11 Little Wilson Hill Pond.

12 The corridor is only 800 feet from the nicest
13 campsite anywhere around Jackman, the Rock Pond
14 Campsite. It is only 1,100 feet from the Beattie zone,
15 which is also a designated remote pond. I believe you
16 said a PRR zone, meaning there is no public motorized
17 access within a half mile of it.

18 A similar transmission line proposal from CMP
19 a few years ago was the Maine Clean Power Connection,
20 or MCPC. That corridor was in much of the same
21 location and was for wind transmission and hydro
22 eventually added. This AC line was proposed to include
23 450 megawatts of head room for additional wind
24 production above and beyond proposed projects. That
25 converts to 150 of the new 600 foot towers. Approval

1 of NECEC sets a precedent for approval of MCPC, which
2 is big wind that we don't want.

3 NECEC and MCPC are in the heart of many
4 proposed wind projects, Somerset and Northwest Wind are
5 two of them. They currently have no grid access. I
6 have enclosed maps of Johnson Mountain with the name
7 Somerset Wind on them. Up to 85 towers have been
8 proposed encompassing Misery Ridge, Little Chase Stream
9 Mountain, Williams Mountain and Long Pond and Parlin
10 Pond Township. This whole junction with the NECEC
11 corridor at the marshall yard if NECEC is permitted.

12 There are proposed wind projects in Maine
13 bidding on requests as far away as Rhode Island. Wind
14 energy from the western mountains could be sent to
15 Quebec via NECEC and cross the border again to supply
16 other states. Also it could be sent to Quebec for
17 their mandates. We could destroy boundary mountains to
18 satisfy Quebec's politics. It may be a short
19 inexpensive transmission, but Quebec needs no power
20 from us and they have wind turbines up there for
21 nothing.

22 MS. MILLER: Can you wrap this up?

23 KERRY HEGARTY: It's not conceivable --
24 yup -- that wind transmission lines alone would be
25 permitted to go over or under the Kennebec corridor and

1 across the border to Quebec without permitting,
2 pre-permitting from NECEC in place. There would also
3 be other obstacles ahead. If NECEC fails, the corridor
4 remains, but may not be used -- but may not be used and
5 the hydro line will probably go through New York,
6 Vermont or New Hampshire.

7 That action will not cause one more wind
8 turbine to be placed in Maine. I hope this subject
9 helps defeat this project. That's long enough.

10 MS. MILLER: Thank you for your
11 testimony.

12 KERRY HEGARTY: Thank you.

13 DOT KELLY: Good evening. Thank you for
14 allowing us to present our testimony. Hi, I'm Dot
15 Kelly and live in Phippsburg, Maine and I'm co-chair of
16 the CR Club Energy Team. I have three points. One,
17 the NECEC is a high impact transmission line and that
18 insufficient analysis was done regarding
19 alternative routes that includes significant
20 undergrounding.

21 Two, the visual, economic and environmental
22 impacts of NECEC as well as the risks associated with
23 the overhead high voltage DC line using VSC technology
24 and monopoles has not been shown that that line is
25 appropriate, nor that this plan is compatible with the

1 LUPC region.

2 And three, the risk and risk reduction
3 solutions have not been vetted or made known. The VSC
4 HVDC overhead line has significant reliability and
5 hazard issues due to things like lightening, ice, wind,
6 line contact from birds and line damage. In addition,
7 the fire and hazards are due to security risks from
8 arson, explosives and firearms must be considered as
9 well for an overhead line. Compared to underground
10 lines, the risk would seem to be less and should be
11 evaluated as an alternative as well as an underground
12 line that follows Route 201, which would be a developed
13 area.

14 And finally I'd like to comment that the
15 whole industry, the electric industry, has been hiding
16 from the danger of the transmission lines and they're
17 increased and they're causing fires throughout the
18 world. It is now reported that ten percent of the
19 forest fires in Texas and California are due to power
20 lines.

21 Given the dramatic economic and environmental
22 impact that we see in California from fires started
23 from power lines, I urge both the Commission and the
24 Board to assure that this project will be protective.
25 Thank you for allowing me to comment.

1 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

2 SANDRA HOWARD: Good evening,
3 commissioners and staff. My name is Sandra Howard and
4 I am the cofounder and director of Say No to NECEC, a
5 grass roots nonprofit organization representing
6 thousands of citizens who oppose the CMP corridor.

7 Since 1997 I've worked as an outdoor educator
8 and as a registered Maine Guide, white water and
9 recreation and I spend every summer living at my
10 family's property in Caratunk.

11 The majority of Mainers oppose the project
12 according to the recent NECEC statewide poll and as
13 evidenced by the public comments being submitted to the
14 record. As a follow-up to this testimony, I will
15 submit 11,762 signatures by those who signed Stop the
16 Corridor petition. The public is here to demand that
17 the DEP and the LUPC prioritize protecting Maine's
18 environment and not this for profit industrial project.

19 NECEC will not enhance or protect Maine's
20 environment. As you're aware, segment one of the
21 proposed corridor has no large scale infrastructure
22 development and is considered to be one of the last
23 intact contiguous forests remaining in North America.
24 Throughout CMP's documentation and public marketing
25 propaganda, they want you to believe that working

1 forests have decimated the entire landscape; however,
2 the truth is the State of Maine works carefully to
3 manage these forests and these trees.

4 A cleared corridor would be incompatible with
5 the existing landscape, result in devastating habitat
6 fragmentation and cause a permanent dissection of the
7 wilderness leaving a massive scenic interruption.

8 Industry standard is to bury HVDC lines, and
9 we've heard a lot about that today. This is Maine's
10 brand. NECEC will not improve wildlife habitat or
11 protect concerned, threatened or endangered species.
12 The cleared corridor will not protect Maine heritage
13 waters. It will not improve recreational tourism
14 experiences in Western Maine.

15 And the members of the public have many
16 questions. Why did CMP not use the existing corridor
17 from the Quebec border to The Forks for the expanded
18 100 foot tall towers? Why did CMP not include a buried
19 line for the 53 and a half miles beyond burying under a
20 class A Kennebec River? Did they prioritize their own
21 profits over minimizing the impacts? Why isn't an
22 independent climate analysis being conducted on this
23 proposal? Why did CMP not include the public in these
24 plans two years ago? Were they afraid the project
25 would not be supported? Well, they were correct and

1 now not a single town along the new corridor supports
2 this project and additional towns are in conversation
3 about rescinding support.

4 Another question that I have is why is CMP
5 allowed to provide funds to form a nonprofit
6 organization, Western Mountains and Rivers Corporation,
7 and use funds to pay for their legal counsel in Group 7
8 of these proceedings? It appears that the applicant is
9 trying to stack the deck of supporters.

10 And to wrap up, to date there's no grass
11 roots group that supports this project. Testimony in
12 support of the corridor are generally by those who
13 stand to financially gain if the project is approved.
14 We ask the DEP and LUPC to deny these permits and act
15 as good stewards of Maine's environment, wildlife
16 habitat, waterways and maintain Maine's wild and scenic
17 brand. Thank you.

18 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

19 JUDY DIAZ: Good evening, I'm Judy Diaz.
20 I'm a resident of Jay. I own property in the
21 unorganized territory. I support the New England Clean
22 Energy Connect Project. I'm a retired contractor and
23 view this project similar to the Turnpike widening back
24 in the '90s. If you have a project that needs to be
25 expanded, you use your existing corridor, you don't go

1 and build a new one, or take your infrastructure and
2 use it in place of somewhere else.

3 The demand for electricity in the northeast
4 is expanding and the existing infrastructure should be
5 expanded to support the New England power grid. Last
6 year it produced 100,000 gigawatts of power. Our power
7 plants are ancient. Many will be retiring over the
8 next years. We're going to be in a similar situation
9 with Maine Yankee closing, the hydro dams closing.
10 Where will the future power come from? One of these
11 days there's not going to be enough power and we're not
12 going to be doing enough to fix the clean energy.

13 This project makes sense. CMP is using their
14 existing corridor and working with all the state
15 agencies to mitigate the environmental impact to our
16 natural resources. In addition to the project being
17 paid for for Massachusetts, it's a huge economic
18 influence on Maine and the Maine counties that will be
19 going through the corridor.

20 Maine will be receiving a lot of economic
21 benefits. There's going to be to a lot of energy
22 information coming out, the funds available for
23 electric vehicles, expanding use of electric vehicles,
24 charging stations. There will be educational grants,
25 economic development in the areas, the property tax

1 payments to the local areas will be a godsend in the
2 area where it's so economically depressed.

3 I look forward to -- I'm hoping that you go
4 ahead with the clean energy project and issue the
5 necessary permits. Uses of the New England grid are
6 all of us and we're facing a major shortfall in the
7 coming years. Thank you.

8 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

9 PETER CAMPION: Peter Champion of Wilton.
10 I would like to support --

11 MS. MILLER: I don't have your name on
12 the list. You need to sign in on the list and --

13 PETER CAMPION: You read my name.

14 MS. MILLER: Can you say it again,
15 please.

16 PETER CAMPION: Peter Champion.

17 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

18 PETER CAMPION: I would like to -- Peter
19 Champion, Wilton. I would like to support the cases
20 made by the three speakers who are in favor of burying
21 this power transmission line to minimize its
22 environmental effects. I would also like to point out
23 my concern that in attempting to find a regularly
24 available environmental impact assessment, or economic
25 analysis to prepare for this meeting, I was not able to

1 do so. Apparently there is data available there, which
2 I look forward to reading, but it certainly was not
3 readily available. Thank you very much. That's it.

4 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

5 THERESA YORK: Good evening, my name is
6 Theresa York and I'm a resident of Farmington, Maine.
7 I'm opposed to the proposed CMP transmission line and
8 I'm here to urge the LUPC to deny CMP their special
9 exemption certificate for the ATP-RR zone and stop this
10 project.

11 Hikers from around the world and across the
12 United States are drawn to the Appalachian Trail. I
13 know this because I've met them as I too hike sections
14 of the AT. These hikers who start in Georgia tell me
15 that the trail here in Maine is unique and special
16 because it seems more remote than other parts of the AT
17 and has the wilderness and scenic setting that has put
18 them on the trail in the first place.

19 The NECEC project could destroy this thought
20 process and here's why. The project will be located
21 within the existing transmission corridor that crosses
22 the AT no less than three times in less than a mile.
23 That we are certain of. We are also certain that the
24 existing corridor will be widened by 75 feet and 90
25 foot towers will be installed. I'm also certain that

1 if I was to hike this section of the AT and stood on
2 the summit of a mountain, my scenic vista would include
3 those towers and a swathe of emptiness and that would
4 certainly keep me and others from hiking that section
5 of the AT again.

6 I think the most damaging piece of
7 information of the impact of this corridor on the AT is
8 given by the company of Avangrid themselves. The
9 company proposed to relocate the AT to eliminate two of
10 the crossings, thus eliminating some of the impact to
11 hikers. I propose that as a hiker and a concerned
12 citizen of Farmington, that we eliminate these larger
13 and scenic impacting projects called NECEC. We should
14 do everything we can to keep a corridor of this size
15 from crossing the Appalachian Trail.

16 I hope you will join me in opposing this
17 project and denying CMP their certificate. Thank you
18 for allowing me to speak.

19 MS. MILLER: Thank you. I apologize for
20 any confusion of the names, it's difficult. I'm going
21 to call number of names, Darryl Wood, Ryan Linn, Susan
22 Davis, Tom Bassford, Bob Daigle, Rollie Brown, Albert
23 Howlett and Peter Titcomb.

24 DARRYL WOOD: Good evening. My name is
25 Darryl Wood. I live in New Sharon. I'm a registered

1 nurse and a registered Maine Guide. Thank you for the
2 opportunity to comment tonight really. I'm opposed to
3 this project for a variety of reasons, most of which
4 have been covered in some detail here and in the news
5 and other forums. I'll make some of my larger points
6 and then hope to add a couple of personal anecdotes.

7 I go to the region for two major reasons, the
8 quality of hunting, fishing, hiking, recreation and the
9 quality of the overall experience in that area. I live
10 on the Sandy River with great deer hunting and
11 snowmobile trails out my back door, yet I travel to
12 that area in question because of the sense of
13 wilderness that comes from not seeing manmade
14 structures. I think I speak for a lot of people when I
15 say that the experience is priceless and when it is
16 gone, it is gone forever.

17 In my opinion this project negatively impacts
18 the scenic character of the viewshed and would
19 negatively impact people's experiences and harm small
20 businesses in the area. Certainly now and as
21 development approaches, it will become increasingly
22 valuable to future generations of people in the State
23 of Maine.

24 I also think that you cannot underestimate
25 the impact on wildlife, be it habitat fragmentation,

1 the loss of shade for cooling waters or the widespread
2 use of herbicides are all detrimental. I concern
3 myself most with the impact on brook trout, a very
4 sensitive species that is on its last leg in the
5 eastern U.S. here in Maine, particularly in that region
6 north. When the species is gone, it will be tragic.
7 There is no doubt that this project will harm brook
8 trout.

9 Also, as far as mitigation is concerned, in
10 my opinion no amount of today's dollars for alternative
11 habitat tradeoff should be considered to compensate for
12 this corridor. There's no doubt in my mind that once
13 in place, this strip will be a beacon for other
14 developments such as wind power that will further erode
15 the experience of the iconic Maine brand.

16 It is extremely shortsighted to sell our
17 future for foreign profits and pennies per month to
18 Mainers. In one hundred years do we think our future
19 generation will thank us for development or for saving
20 a unique place to recreate and generate tourist
21 dollars?

22 A couple of personal anecdotes, when I was a
23 child in Buxton, we used to ride our bikes down the
24 road down the logging trail miles into the woods in
25 search of an adventure. About halfway down the field

1 was a giant power line we had to cross. I remember the
2 first time standing under it in awe listening to the
3 corona hum and feeling the magnetic vibrations
4 viscerally. On subsequent occasions, however, we would
5 scurry across unnerved, our instincts telling us not to
6 linger under the corona hum.

7 I would wonder, have there been studies on
8 the impacts of this corona hum and leaking voltage on
9 vernal pools, spring salamanders or the roaring brook
10 mayfly? I can imagine at the minimum they would
11 scatter from the area and possibly be harmed or killed.

12 Second anecdote, I work for an organization
13 in town that has 40 acres we have developed into
14 gardens and hiking trails less than one mile from where
15 we stand right now. On that property we have developed
16 a support stewardship plan, which includes keeping all
17 the springs and intermittent streams shaded. We use
18 culverts and stones to make sure the trails don't send
19 muddy or warm waters to the Sandy River below out of
20 concern for the brook trout. All the work has been
21 done by volunteers with a goal of human recreation and
22 sustainable habitats. The existing line goes through
23 the middle of the property and has a moderate impact
24 from the experience currently.

25 The new line would certainly diminish the

1 woods bathing, an experience we've been developing over
2 the years through -- though the new sections are of the
3 greatest concern to me, there will be hundreds of
4 abutters with a similar concern over wildlife and the
5 impact on the corridor on the value of their own
6 property and experiences. Thank you for your time.

7 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

8 AL HOWLETT: Good evening. My name is
9 Al Howlett. I'm from Yarmouth, Maine and I want to
10 preface my remarks by what you mentioned at the
11 beginning, my remarks are a little broader, but I feel
12 like the biggest potential damage to the north Maine
13 woods is from climate change, and if you don't put this
14 project through, that's what will do most damage, so
15 it's an issue related to greenhouse gasses and to
16 climate change itself. They do directly affect this
17 project and are within the criteria.

18 So will this project reduce greenhouse gasses
19 emissions? Yes, it will. It will replace a huge
20 amount of electricity from dirty fossil fuels with
21 inexpensive renewable hydropower from Canada.

22 In 2018 Hydro-Quebec spilled more than enough
23 water to generate NECEC's 1,200 megawatts. HQ can
24 generate additional electricity from refurbished
25 plants. Their Romaine 4 plant is nearing completion.

1 Claims by gas companies and some Maine green groups,
2 many of which I belong to, that this project will not
3 reduce greenhouse gasses without merit.

4 The environmental impact on the local area of
5 the line will be limited. Much of the land along the
6 new 53 mile right of way, as some people have said, is
7 a working forest crisscross with logging roads and some
8 clearcuts. The area is not pristine. It is not
9 untouched. Under the power lines, small trees, bushes,
10 grass and blueberries will all grow, allowing for
11 wildlife habitat. And I'm sure many of you have, as I
12 have, driven up to Millinocket to Baxter Park and you
13 cross the power lines that run down to Ripogenus Dam
14 and there you get great views of Katahdin because of
15 the right of way.

16 I've been traveling that road for 60 years.
17 I first did it in 1969. I have never ever heard
18 complaint about that power line. Power lines are not
19 evil. They bring us power and climate change is the
20 big environmental issue of our time.

21 As was said earlier, it gives us only
22 12 years to take urgent and unprecedented actions to
23 avoid catastrophe. Our planet is warming and extreme
24 storms are causing untold damage, thousands of climate
25 refugees are looking for new homes. People are losing

1 their lives. Climate change is wreaking havoc in
2 Maine. Fish at the coast are gone, lobsters crawling
3 north, tree diseases increasing. Extreme storms are
4 damaging AT and Baxter Park trails. The list goes on.

5 Climate change must have the highest priority
6 of land use climate conditions and Department and
7 Environmental Protection in Maine, across the United
8 States and the World. New England Clean Energy Connect
9 is the single biggest contribution Maine can make right
10 now to slow warming of the planet and to preserve Maine
11 as we know it.

12 The benefits of this project outweigh the
13 negative aspects. Let's follow the lead of our
14 esteemed governor, Janet Mills. It's urgent. Support
15 NECEC now. Thank you.

16 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

17 TOM BASSFORD: Good evening. My name is
18 Tom Bassford. I live in Salem Township on the side of
19 Mount Abram and I appreciate the opportunity to speak
20 tonight. I oppose the CMP and Hydro-Quebec corridor
21 project for many reasons, just like some of the other
22 speakers. As the speakers have mentioned, what a bad
23 economic deal it is to Maine in spite of the minimal
24 economic sweetener CMP has offered various groups and
25 the unsubstantiated protections of the future

1 environmental and economic benefits and the vague
2 promises of help with electric bills.

3 I want to talk tonight about the effect the
4 corridor would have on wildlife habitat, water sources
5 and the area as an ecosystem and a refuge, especially
6 the 53 mile new section from the Quebec corridor to
7 Caratunk.

8 The clearcut for the corridor will be
9 permanent. It would not be allowed to grow back.
10 Right away we lose the carbon sequestering and air
11 purifying for the entire forest. The clearcut would be
12 maintained with the use of herbicides. Due to
13 increased erosion and runoff from the clearcut, these
14 herbicides would eventually end up in the brooks,
15 wetlands, ponds and lakes in the clearcut and beyond
16 impacting fish, wildlife, waterfowl and other things.

17 The proposed corridor and its construction
18 and access roads would result in further fragmenting
19 division of this mostly contiguous wildlife habitat and
20 ecosystem and would encourage even more development.
21 However, the main reason I reject the corridor proposal
22 and urge both the public and the decisionmakers to do
23 some so is harder to define.

24 Large areas like this in the western
25 mountains of Maine are scarce and becoming scarcer with

1 development. These places are sources of serenity,
2 peace and regeneration in an all too busy noisy,
3 fast-paced world. That's why we live in these
4 mountains. That's why people come here, whether they
5 come to hike, camp, fish, hunt, canoe, whatever, they
6 come to experience that peace, that connection to
7 nature.

8 This quality is impossible to monetize.
9 People who think about pros simply in terms of economic
10 costs and benefits don't get it. The sanctuary in the
11 Maine woods belongs to the people of Maine and should
12 not be for sale at any price. If this project is
13 allowed to go through the sanctuary, its refuge would
14 be lost forever and no amount of money will mitigate or
15 compensate for that loss.

16 Question, does it really benefit the people
17 of Maine? Does it even make sense to destroy our Maine
18 woods to satisfy Massachusetts' need for electricity
19 and their need to feel like they're going green and the
20 corporate greed of two foreign owned companies who
21 stand to make billions over the long run if this
22 process goes through. Thank you.

23 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

24 PETER TITCOMB: My name is Peter Titcomb
25 and I'm from Yarmouth. Just a few words, I think --

1 I'm a supporter of this project somewhat reluctantly,
2 but in favor of it because of the urgency of the
3 situation. I understand that there are impacts at all
4 levels of wildlife, individuals who make their living
5 in the woods, but I think all of that is overshadowed
6 by the eminent of threat of climate change that needs
7 to be addressed now and I think this was one step
8 towards addressing that that is reasonably accessible
9 now. Anything else is going to be much longer term and
10 we don't have time to spare.

11 I also think that it may be false hope for
12 people to suggest putting the lines underground because
13 I suspect that is much more expensive and it would be
14 very difficult to do, as attractive as it sounds, but
15 anyway, I hope we can make the right decision for this.
16 The advantages of this outweigh the impacts. Thank
17 you.

18 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

19 BOB DAIGLE: Thank you. Good evening,
20 my name is Bob Daigle. I'm from Arundel and I'm a
21 lifelong Maine native, born and raised here, got my
22 engineering degree from the University of Orono and
23 unlike many others in my generation, I left the state
24 for ten years because I needed to get a job, but I love
25 Maine and I came back and I settled here and I intend

1 to stay here forever. Unfortunately my daughter isn't
2 staying here because she had to go elsewhere for a job.

3 Jobs is one of the points I want to
4 emphasize, which is why I'm wearing this shirt. I
5 understand what you are going through, and by the way,
6 I want to thank you for service coming here. Part of
7 my background too is I served four terms in the
8 legislature serving on the committee for the
9 environment and natural resources, so I spent my
10 evenings in hard metal chairs as well. I'm not going
11 to try to speak to legislative intent because 186
12 people serve up there and they each have their own
13 opinions, but I do want to bring up one point is that I
14 know that when these laws are created to establish this
15 program, it's called permit for a reason because the
16 default is to give you permission.

17 The State establishes guidelines and says to
18 CMP if you can work within those guidelines, you get
19 permission to construct this project. I think CMP is
20 putting forth a serious good effort to do that. I
21 think this process may bring out a few tweaks to do it,
22 but in the end I trust your judgment to say that they
23 have met the conditions, they are within the
24 guidelines, so the default is to give them permission
25 to give them a permit. These laws are not intended to

1 obstruct development. The fault is to allow it.

2 I see two major points, which you mentioned
3 at the beginning, the people are talking to, the impact
4 on the scenic character. The law does not say there
5 shall be no impact. The law says there will be no
6 unreasonable impact. We all accept that and you've
7 heard many comments today about it's not a pristine
8 universe now. CMP, we expect to have an impact from
9 this, it's natural, it has to occur.

10 And the second is the idea of exploring the
11 alternatives. What I see there is really an intent to
12 do paralysis of analysis and we've seen that many
13 times. I see environmental projects in my life. I see
14 it go so far and then get stopped because somebody is
15 always saying -- say this, try to delay. Their intent
16 was never to try to seek the permission for the
17 project. Their intent was to obstruct it. I see the
18 inklings of this. I believe you will resist that and I
19 encourage you to do so.

20 Thank for a chance to make these points and
21 again, thank you for your service tonight.

22 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

23 SUSAN DAVIS: Good evening. My name is
24 Susan Davis. I'm from Kingfield. I'm speaking on my
25 own as a private citizen. I've been -- this is my

1 third hearing. I was very pleased to be able to
2 provide testimony and pleased that legislation is
3 asking for further study and I have to say with all of
4 the testimony that I've heard both pro and con over
5 these last -- my experience at these hearings, I'm
6 particularly impressed with the environmental impacts
7 that go way beyond the savings that we might get from
8 this corridor. So needless to say, I do not support
9 it.

10 CMP demolished towns and townships to build
11 Flagstaff by taking property and livelihood from
12 hundreds. Now their effort to cut power lines through
13 53 miles of Maine forest can affect thousands of people
14 who enjoy and earn their livings in low to no impact
15 occupations and recreation. The impact is forest,
16 streams, wetlands, wildlife and scenic beauty will
17 affect one of the last remaining wilderness areas of
18 the United States, very well documented and frequently
19 mentioned.

20 Furthermore, the impact of Hydro-Quebec's dam
21 on the land and water of the northeast all the way to
22 the forming of the gulf Maine is major. It sets apart
23 global warming that offsets any modest gains in carbon
24 savings claimed by this project.

25 All of this is a financial boom for large

1 corporations at the expense of the people and climate
2 use. Thank you for all the work that you do and for
3 allowing us to come.

4 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

5 ROLLIE BROWN: Good evening ladies and
6 gentlemen. My name is Rollie Brown and --

7 MS. MILLER: Can you speak into the
8 microphone, please.

9 ROLLIE BROWN: I'm sorry.

10 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

11 ROLLIE BROWN: I live in Gardiner and
12 I'm still Rollie Brown and I want to thank you for
13 allowing me to speak regarding this very important
14 issue.

15 When I was a young boy, my father said
16 Rollie, if you have something important to say, for
17 God's sake start at the end, so that's what I'll do
18 tonight.

19 I'm here to voice my enthusiastic support for
20 this project and I hope you'll do the same. I would
21 also like to tell you that I am a master Maine Guide.
22 I'm speaking on my own behalf and I'm speaking from my
23 own experience in the Maine outdoors. I believe there
24 are many benefits to Maine's wild critters living in
25 and around open spaces, including transmission rights

1 of way.

2 For example, have you ever seen what I call a
3 three-story thatched condo on a transmission crossarm?
4 Have you ever wondered why the ospreys build those
5 nests in those locations? I've never asked one, but I
6 suspect because it's because of the location, access to
7 food and the tremendous vantage point that they have to
8 find the food.

9 I'm an avid fly fisherman. I know there's
10 been some comments about the trout. You'll often find
11 those nests where a stream crosses a transmission line.
12 When I see one of those, that's a good place to start
13 fishing because the osprey seem to know where the fish
14 are, so I don't think it has a complete negative impact
15 on the fishery.

16 Many other critters such as deer, moose,
17 grouse, to name a few, use these corridors for
18 pathways, nesting areas and food sources. In fact, if
19 you want to see these critters for yourself, you'll
20 probably have no greater chance of doing so than in one
21 of the corridors. And it's also no wonder that
22 hunters -- you'll often see hunters walking along these
23 corridors during the various hunting season.

24 So I again would respectfully request that
25 you look favorably on this project, which in my humble

1 opinion will have a positive impact on Maine's wildlife
2 in addition to its citizens, which I'm so grateful to
3 be one.

4 The benefits even extend to tourists and
5 Mainers who enjoy hiking, taking photographs, cross
6 county skiing, snowmobiling, not to mention white water
7 rafting and enjoying areas of the state that would not
8 likely be available to them if not for the generous
9 open-to-the-public policies of Maine's electric
10 companies and other private landowners who provide the
11 access roads, trails, boat launches, areas to the
12 public and who contribute to so many other ways to our
13 wonderful Maine experience.

14 I greatly appreciate your consideration and
15 time and I know you have a very hard decision to make
16 and I wish you all the best.

17 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

18 RYAN LINN: Good evening, I'm Ryan Linn
19 from Portland and I'm here representing myself, but I'm
20 also the owner of a small business that brings people
21 from all over the world to the Appalachian Trail. I
22 work very closely with Appalachian Trail hikers, hikers
23 all over the world, and the area near Moxie Pond and
24 Joe's Hole, which is where the transmission line would
25 cross the Appalachian Trail, I can say is a place that

1 holds special significance to me to -- a place where
2 I've had many good experiences. And while I know that
3 there's already a power line crossing on the
4 Appalachian Trail at that point, I do think that the
5 large new transmission towers would have a negative
6 impact on the scenery and character of that area.

7 People come from all over the world and from
8 all over the state to do parts of the Appalachian Trail
9 in Maine. It is an incredibly different experience to
10 be on that trail in Maine than any of the other places
11 where it crosses any of the other states.

12 I'm not totally against all changes in the
13 north woods, but for any change that would make a
14 permanent impact as this corridor would do, especially
15 in the 53 miles of corridor through Caratunk, changes
16 that would leave a permanent impact have to be well
17 worth the tradeoff and the benefits that CMP and
18 Hydro-Quebec have on this new power line do not equal
19 the losses that I would see in the area.

20 I feel like a lot of the reasons that I argue
21 for it is CMP is assuming that there's no other options
22 and I would love to see other options on the table. I
23 don't want to see my state's future sold to the highest
24 bidder on the first chance that we have to sell it.
25 I'd like to see a lot more deliberation on things like

1 this. So I am glad for the opportunity to speak here.
2 Thank you very much.

3 MS. MILLER: Thank you. New people have
4 signed in and walked into the room and don't know if
5 we've sworn everybody in, so what I'm going to do is
6 swear a bunch of the new folks. If anyone who intends
7 to testify who has not been sworn in, please stand and
8 raise your right hand. Thank you. I appreciate this.
9 For those of you who wish to be sworn in, do you swear
10 or affirm that the testimony you are about to give is
11 the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

12 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: I do.

13 MS. MILLER: Thank you. I'm going to
14 call a number of people. Sandra Swatsky, Gail Lange,
15 John Mahon, Elizabeth White, Tom White, Dave Macomber,
16 William Mayo. That will be it for new now.

17 JOHN MAHON: Hello, my name is John
18 Mahon. I live in Freeman Township, the unorganized
19 territories. Thank you for letting me speak tonight.
20 My area of resource teaching, consulting for more than
21 40 years has been on relationship between business,
22 government, society and environment. I have been very
23 lucky to have an award winning national course on
24 abrupt climate change in business and public policy
25 with some of the foremost climatologists on the face of

1 the earth located right here in Maine. We have a
2 resource that's not being used.

3 I spent nearly eight years in the Navy, and
4 one of the sayings we had in the Navy was we always had
5 time -- never had time to get it right, but we always
6 had time to do it over again. This is not a do over
7 situation and I think that's what the gist of the
8 argument is. The consequences of being wrong on this
9 particular decision can have profound impacts on our
10 environment, on the growth of new businesses in
11 Franklin County that rely on the environmental
12 attraction, that we can afford to -- which you heard
13 from the young man there.

14 By the way, many of these new entrepreneur
15 activities are formed by young people, a demographic
16 that seems to be pretty important to the State of
17 Maine. I have had experience with the Land Use
18 Planning Commission living in the unorganized
19 territories and I would hope that you would be as
20 rigorous in your permitting and protection of land
21 resources for CMP as you have been for me as an
22 individual property owner, nothing more, nothing less.

23 Regarding greenhouse gasses and climate
24 change, you have in this state the oldest climate
25 change institute on the face of the earth with a group

1 of 50 scientists across multiple disciplines who can
2 look at greenhouse black gasses, who can look at
3 climate change who might tell you, by the way, that the
4 production of the Quebec-Hydro dam destroyed an
5 enormous amount of carbon holding trees that no one has
6 really taken a look at.

7 Finally, it's not at all clear what the
8 direct as opposed to indirect benefit is to the people
9 of Maine. This is true for both the short and long
10 term. The clear beneficiaries are CMP and its owners,
11 their shareholders and Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
12 Your ultimate duty I think by both statute and law is to
13 protect the interest of the citizens of Maine and the
14 wise use of our precious land resources in the state.
15 Asking for more information, better research is not the
16 wrong thing to do. Thank you.

17 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

18 THOMAS WHITE: Good evening. I'm going
19 to speak about Section B on the hearing --

20 MS. MILLER: Can I ask you to state your
21 name?

22 THOMAS WHITE: I'm sorry, it's Thomas
23 White, common spelling, W-H-I-T-E, in Jay, Maine. I'm
24 going to just read over your criteria, which says the
25 applicant must demonstrate that the proposed activity

1 will not unreasonably harm any wildlife habitat, fresh
2 water wetland, plant habitat, threatened or endangered
3 plant habitat.

4 Then I'm going to read to you from the March,
5 April magazine, it's a Canadian Geographic and the
6 author is Benoit Gagnon. He's a chief environmentalist
7 for Hydro-Quebec equipment and chair services. And he
8 writes, a good example of our work is the Romaine
9 complex on the Romaine River on the north shore of the
10 St. Lawrence, which has four separate generating
11 stations.

12 Before we begin work on the project, our team
13 of archeologists, biologists, foresters, chemists and
14 acoustic experts, along with other scientific
15 disciplines, spent four years completing impact studies
16 prior to the start of the building process. The
17 results dictated everything from where our dams were
18 constructed to where the transmission lines and the
19 towers should go.

20 And I submit to you if Bangor Hydro takes
21 four years to do studies prior to putting down the
22 transmission lines, towers and dams, I think probably
23 Maine should be require that as well. Thank you.

24 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

25 WALTER ANDERSON: I think you had my

1 name checked off, Walter Anderson.

2 MS. MILLER: Yes, I have you, thank you.

3 WALTER ANDERSON: Thanks, what a venue,
4 University of the Maine at Farmington. It's been many
5 years since I've been up here. My name is Walter
6 Anderson, a former state geologist and director of the
7 Maine Geological Survey, Department of Conservation. I
8 have been a geologist for over 50 years, 30 of which
9 was with the Maine Geological Survey in Maine and I've
10 testified many times before LURC and the DEP and it's
11 great to see all you people again, not the same people
12 I'm sure, and I must say that I'm here in favor of
13 Connect.

14 It took me a while to come to that decision
15 and there were three points I guess I could make. And
16 one, I'm retired and I sure would like to see the power
17 rates go down, okay. Also, I'm grandfather I and I
18 have three grandchildren that all graduated from
19 schools here in Maine, now have jobs on the west coast,
20 the mid continent and down south. I'd sure like to see
21 youngsters have the opportunity to earn a living up
22 here in Maine. They all make good salaries down there,
23 but things like power and power generation availability
24 will accelerate that process.

25 Also, the trigger that really pulled it for

1 me was that lovely speech that our Governor Mills made
2 I guess it was a week or so ago just declaring her
3 support for this project. It sounded just like a
4 Mainer. I mean, she sounded like she's from Maine and
5 she's looking after our interest. I applaud her
6 support for this project.

7 Also, geologists, you know, I've had
8 opportunities in the past to visit areas up in the
9 Labrador up in Canada and the water resources up there
10 are huge. The sustainability of the delivery of power
11 from those places is also huge. And those who haven't
12 been up there, you might want to take the opportunity
13 to go up there and visit. It's a fantastic area.

14 I'd just maybe conclude by saying that as a
15 geologist I look at mother earth, which has a diameter
16 of 8,000 miles, and it's constructed like an onion, its
17 very center of which is a solid iron core and then
18 that's surrounded by a liquid core of iron, which
19 generates our magnetic field, and then that is in turn
20 surrounded by what we call the mantle and that in turn
21 is surrounded by a very thin crust, an oceanic crust,
22 even a thinner layer, a very thin layer, maybe three
23 miles, it's called our atmosphere, and it's -- it just
24 seems to me that we shouldn't be fooling around with
25 it.

1 I know there's a lot of research being done
2 by the folks up at Orono and the climate studies group,
3 I've worked with them, I've done climatic studies with
4 them and they're doing a great job. As a leader in
5 that area --

6 MS. MILLER: Can I ask you to wrap it
7 up, please.

8 WALTER ANDERSON: Yes, okay. I'll just
9 say I support the project and good luck.

10 MS. MILLER: Thank you very much. Okay,
11 Patricia Van Horne, Donna Fuller, Jack Getchell, Jean
12 Getchell, Maryann Ayott, Clarence Ayott, Kim Lindlof
13 and Paul Fredric.

14 JOHN GETCHELL: Hi, John Getchell, Jay,
15 Maine and I oppose this because I'm a land abutter of
16 the power lines where they're going to be going through
17 real close to my close and I just don't want to be
18 walking out my door and seeing these great big towers
19 more than what we have. And I've seen how they spray
20 these power lines. They're very sloppy with their
21 spray when they go through. The over spray is killing
22 a lot more than the evergreens, they're killing the
23 evergreens too with everything, so I just oppose it and
24 thank you very much.

25 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

1 MARYANN AYOTT: My name is Maryann
2 Ayott. At first I thought that the information that I
3 wanted to portray may not be fitting into the criteria;
4 however, there is a point to it and hopefully you'll
5 understand my point when I'm done. I want to thank you
6 for allowing me to speak. I appreciate that.

7 The Forks and Moxie Gore have been a part of
8 my heart and life for as long as I can remember and I'm
9 very fortunate enough to have a home in Moxie. This
10 proposed line has multiple reasons why it should not be
11 permitted of which you --

12 MS. MILLER: Excuse me, I'm sorry, can
13 you speak more clearly into the microphone for our
14 transcriptionist. Thank you.

15 MARYANN AYOTT: Start over or?

16 MS. MILLER: That's fine. Lorna?

17 COURT REPORTER: She's fine.

18 MARYANN AYOTT: My major opposition is
19 to have effects from the electromagnetic fields that
20 these lines will produce. Being that it is about
21 wildlife, this here is a little more on the human part
22 of this; however, we as humans are like animals, so in
23 a sense please bear with me.

24 I know that there's been hundreds of studies
25 worldwide with different opinions on -- depending on

1 your disposition, you can find whatever you want to
2 match your viewpoint on the internet; however, facts
3 are facts. The World Health Organization has studied
4 that health effects of electrical wiring configuration
5 and childhood cancers, or we can use animals in this
6 wildlife, in a 2007 study reported that cancer risk,
7 specifically leukemia in children, could be a deer or a
8 fawn, doubled for those within 200 feet of these
9 hydropower lines.

10 This study also confirmed a study that was
11 done in 1979. In 1998 the National Institute of
12 Environmental Health and Science reported that EMFs,
13 like the surrounding electric power lines, should be
14 regarded as a possible carcinogen. In 2008 the
15 American Journal of Epidemiology reported a 20 percent
16 increase in incidences of Alzheimer's of people living
17 within 600 feet of power lines. I don't know if
18 animals can get Alzheimer's, but they might go crazy, I
19 don't know.

20 There have been observations with people
21 living within 4,600 feet with altered biorhythms.
22 Those living within 1,600 feet, abnormal EEGs. Some
23 homes are located within 400 feet of the proposed line
24 with children living in them. Now that I am blessed
25 enough to have a grandchild, these studies have given

1 me pause to think about the health and welfare of the
2 children, animals, all wildlife, even insects for that
3 matter, that are going to be going across this line.

4 I hate to think that if these lines are
5 approved, people's health will be negatively impacted
6 for what? Even the most -- least of us should be able
7 to have a health, even if it's an insect, should not
8 have to live under these electric magnetic fields.
9 Thank you very much.

10 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

11 KIM LINDLOF: Good evening. My name is
12 Kim Lindlof. I'm the president and CEO of the
13 Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce which serves 20
14 communities in the greater Waterville area that include
15 Western Waterville, Northern and Central Kennebec and
16 Southern Somerset Counties. I am here tonight
17 representing 630 members, which include paper mills,
18 hospitals, precision manufacturing shops and many, many
19 small mom and pops as well, many of whom are leaders in
20 Maine's business community, but they're also parents
21 and grandparents of Maine's children whose future
22 depends on the strong economy and a sound environment.

23 I know the DEP and LUPC are concerned about
24 environmental impacts and mitigation. With regards to
25 this, I'm here to say that carbon dioxide emission

1 reductions as a result of this project advances Maine's
2 progress towards meeting its long-term greenhouse gas
3 emissions reductions goal. It will be very good for
4 the environment as well as the economy. After all, our
5 robust tourism industry calls on us to maintain clean
6 air, healthy water bodies and seasonal changes that
7 support snowmobiling as well as fishing and hunting.

8 The land on which CMP plans to develop the
9 new corridor is commercial forest with hundreds of
10 miles of logging roads that currently exist. The use
11 of this land for a transmission corridor is in keeping
12 with current land use and CMP happens to own this land.
13 In terms of the project's benefits, our chamber
14 supports NECEC because it will lower electricity supply
15 prices and even out energy price spikes and then --
16 excuse me, even out energy price spikes and
17 uncertainty, which is never good for business. This
18 project will result in millions of dollars of rate
19 relief every year for Maine rate payers. It will also
20 provide increased reliability for Maine and the ISO New
21 England region by delivering base load energy to
22 replace retiring resources such as nuclear power set to
23 close later this summer.

24 There is real value in this infrastructure,
25 which Maine will host and yet not pay to construct. It

1 is also extremely important to ensure we have reliable
2 electricity for the future. As you know, we all depend
3 on your computers, our cell phones, our business
4 machines and the power to run these things and
5 naturally the Mid-Maine Chamber is supportive on the
6 project's economic benefits.

7 This project will boost jobs in the region by
8 supporting employment for an average of 1,700 people
9 per year over a six year period. Beyond that it will
10 add to the permanent local tax base and the host
11 communities, help to expand broadband in an area of the
12 state that really needs it desperately and help fund
13 essential economic development initiatives.

14 So I'm here today to urge you to support the
15 New England Clean Energy Connect and I thank you for
16 your time.

17 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

18 PAUL FREDERIC: Hello, I'm Paul Fredric.
19 Thank you for this opportunity to address the people of
20 the DEP and the LUPC. I hold a Ph.D. in geography.
21 I'm a former director of Maine Land Use Regulation
22 Commission. I'm currently a selectman from the town of
23 Starks and also I'm currently on the Somerset County
24 Budget Committee. I'm a sixth generation Starks
25 farmer. These positions have exposed me to a wide

1 variety of controversial proposals that involve public
2 policy decisions.

3 Just because an idea is controversial doesn't
4 necessarily mean it is bad. It means a variety of
5 people have studied the situation and have arrived at
6 different conclusions and we've heard exactly that this
7 evening. Public policy agencies and regulatory
8 agencies such as yourself must strive to make decisions
9 based on best information and provide the greatest
10 good.

11 I will focus my concerns for the rest of my
12 comments on those items that are of relevance to your
13 hearing tonight.

14 This nearly billion dollar investment in West
15 Central Maine infrastructure to construct the
16 transmission lines to transmit Canadian hydropower and
17 inject it into New England grade in Lewiston has
18 significant implications for Maine and all of New
19 England. Potential impacts, scenic area, almost
20 two-thirds of the transmission line corridor is along
21 the existing CMP right of way purchased beginning in
22 the 1920s. There is already a transmission line there.
23 Land use will remain the same, so about 70 foot wide
24 additional width that will be cleared, and this will be
25 replaced with low lying vegetation, as we heard

1 earlier.

2 The current 45, 75 foot tall towers will be
3 accompanied by towers in the 100 foot range. Power
4 lines are an interesting thing on the visual landscape.
5 There will be change certainly. There will be
6 something new. Most people don't notice power lines
7 because they see them so often that their brain likely
8 ignores them. I've noticed that many people that have
9 expressed concern about this project have no idea where
10 current power lines are. We need to keep that in the
11 back of our mind. There will be visual impact.

12 The new portion of the corridor through the
13 woods will have presence certainly, but there are
14 mitigations. There are plans for underground passage
15 or under river passage. The design does not cut
16 directly through uninterrupted wilderness. In fact,
17 Routes 201 and 27 and their associate development exist
18 in this area. The Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway
19 is a river of steel on a gravel bed with many stream
20 crossings. Also there are hundreds of miles of land
21 and roads. These intrusions represent more impact than
22 the proposed transmission line, potential impact on
23 wildlife and in forest clearing, aid some species and
24 may handicap other species and many of these species
25 can move around.

1 The power line in Starks at the farm I grew
2 up on was always a good place to get your deer. The
3 CMP corridor maintenance on the new lines and the new
4 widening will be the same that they have used in the
5 past.

6 MS. MILLER: I'm sorry, can I ask you to
7 wrap it up, please.

8 PAUL FREDERIC: Okay. In terms of the
9 local setting, if we go for wind and solar, we still
10 have environmental impacts and siting and we still have
11 transmission lines and at the very local level the tax
12 base, new jobs, broadband extension are all positive.
13 And the document that Senator Mills recently signed
14 demonstrates the broad support for this project.

15 I might point out that the school district
16 that my town is part of, which focuses on Farmington,
17 Maine, will gain \$1.1 million in additional taxes each
18 year after the project is complete. Thank you for your
19 time.

20 MS. MILLER: Thank you. So I'm going to
21 call some names which I've already called. If you do
22 not wish to speak and you're here, just let me know and
23 otherwise I'll just keep calling names until I get
24 people to come down because I have quite a few to go
25 through. Sandra Swatsky, Gail Lange, Elizabeth White,

1 Dave Macomber, William Mayo, Tanner Symms, Lee
2 Couturier. I'm sure I mispronounced that one.
3 Patricia Van Horne, Donna Fuller, Susan Ruprecht -- or
4 William, I think it's Ruprecht, David Lord, Peter
5 Theberge, Julia Mahon, Theresa York, Terri Ledoux, Jean
6 Stewart, Cliff Stevens. We'll get started here.

7 DAVID LORD: Hi, my name David Lord. I
8 live in Fayette, lifelong resident of Maine and grew up
9 here in Franklin County in the area --

10 MS. MILLER: I'm sorry, can I ask you to
11 speak right into the microphone? I know it's kind of a
12 pain, but it helps the transcriptionist. Thank you.
13 Can you start over?

14 DAVID LORD: Is this okay? My name is
15 David Lord. I live in Fayette. I grew up here in
16 Franklin County and this area this power line is going
17 through has been my playground for long time and my
18 kids. I'd like not to see it destroyed for my
19 grandchildren and great grandchildren.

20 What I've heard here tonight, some of it has
21 changed my mind about some of it, but I have some
22 concerns that haven't been addressed. One is when I
23 studied electricity many years ago, on a power line
24 like this in order to keep the power flowing evenly,
25 they had to use big, big synchronous motors. They

1 hummed and whined all night long. I wonder what that
2 effect -- what the effect of that will be on the
3 wildlife. Will it drive them away? Will it keep from
4 them going to their usual habitat?

5 And the other thing that I would like to know
6 for sure, and I hope you people will research and get
7 some assurances, in the past when Central Maine Power
8 has had their right of way and transmission lines done,
9 eventually they put gas lines and other lines
10 underground and I'm dead against natural gas when you
11 see all the explosions there are. I'd like assurances
12 that there won't be gas, oil or dangerous liquids piped
13 through pipes under those power if that's what comes
14 through.

15 The other thing, one of the gentleman talked
16 about being in the Navy and never had time to do
17 anything right, but you always could do it over. I
18 worked in one of those places.

19 This corridor would be a permanent thing. It
20 would be a scar on the face of Maine and if modern
21 technology and new methods of making electricity deem
22 this power line no longer necessary, that scar will
23 never heal and the foresters that work up there can
24 tell you. There's roads up there you can see that
25 haven't been used for 60 years and there are other

1 scars on the earth we know from listening to the
2 archeologists and geography and people long before us
3 made and it would never heal and I wouldn't like to see
4 that happen, you know, that's one reason I'm against
5 this project.

6 In 1820 Maine separated from Massachusetts
7 and in my opinion they ruined what they had and we
8 preserved what we had. I'd like not to see that
9 ruined. Thank you for the chance to speak.

10 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

11 JEAN STEWART: Name is Jean Stewart.
12 I'm from New Sharon. I'm a visiting nurse and I hear
13 deep concerns from those living in the area I visit
14 from Anson down through Livermore Falls concerning this
15 line. The corridor that is proposed would cut through
16 a miles of undeveloped forest and Maine's north woods
17 using herbicides to maintain the corridor on its
18 entirety and clear the land does harm many species,
19 brook trout, salamanders, deer and other animals,
20 habitats. It would damage significant tourism economy
21 of a broad region. A certain detrimental impact on the
22 Kennebec, Cold Stream and Sheepscot Rivers, all class A
23 and many other waterways would occur.

24 On top of fragmentation and wildlife impact,
25 indeed there is no evidence, and CMP will not state

1 this, that the corridor would reduce climate change and
2 pollution. Neither of the related project proposed
3 through Vermont or New Hampshire would ever preclude
4 greenhouse gas reductions either. This proposed
5 corridor would jeopardize the construction of new
6 in-state renewable energy projects and clean energy
7 jobs that Maine would be benefitting from. To allow
8 damaging the watershed and lowering property values or
9 having an extension corridor with power that already
10 has buyers in Ontario, New York and thus far no
11 evidence of climate benefit is unconscionable.

12 Visitors don't come to these areas to view a
13 hundred foot power lines. And remember CMP clearly
14 states that this direct current corridor, in previous
15 meetings, they stated that this will be a priority if
16 weather cause or other outages occur, which would
17 compromise reliable service to Maine customers.

18 Please be informed of this project's
19 shortsightedness and of its permanent damage and
20 impact. Can we look further than tomorrow regarding
21 our energy? No amount of money is worth permanently
22 damaging forest habitat, water sheds and western
23 Mainers way of life. Please deny this certificate.
24 Thank you.

25 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

1 SUSAN THEBERGE: Good evening, my name
2 is Susan Theberge and I'm reading for Peter Theberge,
3 if that's okay. Okay, thank you very much. My name is
4 Peter Theberge. I live in Jay, Maine and I'm strongly
5 opposed to this project. Imagine if however many years
6 ago CMP had approached the State of Maine and its
7 residents and said we'd like to put in a line to supply
8 Quebec-Hydropower to a New England grid and would like
9 to involve as many people as possible to have a project
10 that Mainers could be on board with.

11 CMP likely would have learned quickly just
12 how important the north Maine woods are to so many
13 Mainers. An alternate route of burying the line
14 alongside Route 201 would likely have been suggested
15 and with that route CMP could have also buried the
16 local power line to greatly improve Jackman area
17 electrical reliability. The majority of Jackman would
18 be on board. Keeping the line out of that working
19 forest would have more on board. The widened corridor
20 of Route 201 would allow for a snowmobile route with
21 connection with other trails. Snowmobilers and their
22 organizations would be on board.

23 A widened corridor would also enhance the
24 scenic views available to those driving that route,
25 more may be on board. Cutting grass over the buried

1 line as opposed to using herbicides would have even
2 more on board.

3 In addition to the enhanced views, the
4 utility poles along the route to various local lines
5 could be taken down, maybe the scenic people could be
6 on board with that. If there were necessary mitigation
7 monies, they could have gone directly to the upkeep of
8 Route 201, the Route 201 Byway. Imagine that? There
9 could have been a lot of people on board and
10 appreciative if CMP included them. I would be on board
11 with that.

12 Instead CMP surveyed and planned their entire
13 written secret. Only when they needed to show that
14 they had support did they approach town leaders with
15 the list of things they apparently couldn't turn down.
16 And only when it couldn't be held back anymore did the
17 public begin to find out about it and the opposition
18 grew and grew. People are against this for many
19 reasons.

20 Recent polls show 65 percent of Mainers are
21 opposed to it with only 15 percent for it. That number
22 rises to 80 and 90 percent of Somerset and Franklin
23 County residents against it.

24 While the vast majority of benefits go to
25 Quebec, Spain and Massachusetts, Maine is left with a

1 division between the residents of this state and its
2 government and agencies bigger than any corridor will
3 be. That is of course in addition to the corridor
4 itself, especially when considering future expansions
5 of this corridor. Now is the time to reject this
6 proposal. Thank you, Peter Theberge.

7 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

8 CLIFF STEVENS: My name is Cliff
9 Stevens. I'm a resident of The Forks. I own a rafting
10 company, Moxie Outdoor Adventures, and I own a sporting
11 camp and campground which abuts the corridor along
12 Moxie Pond. I'm opposed to the project for its impact
13 on the scenic viewshed and its impact on a working
14 forest, our pristine wilderness that has a working
15 forest in it.

16 I feel that the corridor is inappropriate in
17 entering to go through this beautiful pristine area.
18 The towers along Moxie Pond specifically, it's a place
19 there's no internet, there's no electricity and there's
20 no cell phones. So when you go there, people do
21 unplug, as they do all throughout this area that we're
22 a discussing. They go there and recharge.

23 My guests, my neighbors, people who hike the
24 Appalachian Trail, if this project is approved, we will
25 see these poles from everywhere, every little mountain,

1 every little pond. As you drive up Route 201 and crest
2 Rollins Hill, you'll see the power lines. I strongly
3 recommend that we do not approve this project.

4 Thirty years ago there was a proposal to run
5 power down Lake Moxie to the camps and with your wisdom
6 you denied that and I hope you use that same wisdom to
7 deny this project or to look at alternatives. Thank
8 you.

9 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Okay. Andre
10 Belanger, Andrew Breau, Tim Walton, James Labrecque,
11 Arno Labrecque, Clyde MacDonald.

12 ANDREW BELANGER: My name's Andre
13 Belanger. I'm a resident of Farmington. I've been
14 here approximately over 30 years. I have a tremendous
15 respect for the people who oversee our environmental
16 laws in this state. I think they've done a very good
17 job over the years. I think -- things have changed.
18 We've talked about years ago, you know, used this area
19 in the Flagstaff Lake and so forth, laws have changed.
20 Things have improved, but we also -- if we want to
21 progress as a state, we're part of New England, this
22 helps New England. We're part of that New England
23 group that has an impact on us. It may not be direct
24 as some of you would like, but it has an impact. It
25 helps our local community, tax base.

1 I'm familiar with the corridor existing. I'm
2 a member of the local snowmobile club. I've worked on
3 these trails, which in some places are 10 to 12, 15
4 miles long and I see wildlife. The fish don't go
5 through the streams, deer cross, birds fly by. I don't
6 see that changing.

7 As far as up in the northern part of The
8 County, that's a working forest. It has been for a
9 very, very long time. It will continue to be a working
10 forest. Again, I have a lot of faith in our existing
11 laws and the people who oversee it because they study
12 these things and they're well educated on those plans.

13 Disasters and so forth, erosion, have you
14 ever looked at a stream after a flood, a hard rain?
15 The water changes, things change, it recovers. I don't
16 see any of this happening with a project that is
17 planned like this. These folks do their research.
18 Anyway, that's all I have. Thank you for the
19 opportunity for you folks to come.

20 MS. MILLER: Thank you very much.

21 JIM LABRECQUE: Good evening, my name is
22 Jim Labrecque. I was born in Farmington, grew up in
23 Franklin County. I live in Bangor. The last eight
24 years I have been the technical advisor for Governor
25 LePage on energy.

1 I have a few points I want to make today.
2 One, our standard of living is directly linked to our
3 energy use. Two, like our standard of living, our
4 electricity needs have steadily increased over the last
5 one hundred plus years. There is nothing to suggest
6 that will change. In fact, electric growth will
7 accelerate as we need more for heat and transportation.

8 While our demand for electricity continues,
9 our whole fleet of generation of electrical generation
10 is falling off line. There is no question we need more
11 energy resources. No form of energy generation is
12 without tradeoffs. Given the limited list of options
13 mentioned in these proceedings, what is the most viable
14 option, wind, solar or hydro? I was at the YouToo tech
15 conference and they addressed the conference before
16 Governor Mills a few weeks ago. I said this morning it
17 was zero degrees, and at zero degrees there was 434,000
18 homes in Maine heating their homes with oil at the rate
19 of a half a gallon an hour. When you calculate those
20 BTUs and transfer it to energy, that's seven nuclear
21 power plants worth of energy just for 434,000 homes
22 that only heat with oil, nothing else in the state,
23 this building, no other homes, no industry, nothing.

24 I asked where are you expecting to find seven
25 nuclear power plants worth of energy on a cold winter

1 night when the wind's not blowing and there certainly
2 isn't any sun. This stuff about we're going to do all
3 this with solar and wind is a myth for the last
4 45 years. We to have to get real. We need energy and
5 there is no plan by these people that continuously say
6 we're going to do it with solar and wind like they have
7 for the last 45 years. They have not even a plan on
8 the back of the napkin.

9 Look at the amount of planning CMP had to do
10 just for this one power line. I'm sure there's tens of
11 thousands of documents laid out in the public to be
12 scrutinized, but we don't have that.

13 I did calculations for the governor a long
14 time ago and I am going to submit -- do you accept
15 documents? Okay. I am going to submit this. It's a
16 document that I prepared as the governor's technical
17 advisor and testimony of mine to the energy committee.
18 And basically in here it showed that to do those
19 434,000 homes with wind, that's based on its average
20 capacity. You need 47 Mars Hill mountains, the whole
21 mountain, 47 Mars Hill mountains in each of Maine's 16
22 counties. All of the calculation here in this are
23 supported and signed off by a whole number of experts
24 and Ph.D.s and PEs and so forth and all the signatures
25 on here and so forth too, so if you look at that -- and

1 then one other thing I'm to going to submit for
2 documentation is calculations I did for the governor
3 before he left office when he was talking to -- when he
4 was talking to Quebec. And there's 110 megawatts out
5 of that 400 that's not being used, use that. It's
6 unsold. If we grab that and use it to run heat pumps
7 in the state, taking care of eliminating some of our
8 oil. Giving them six cents a kilowatt hour for our
9 electricity, we lose -- we save \$120 million that don't
10 go to the oil companies to leave the state each year.
11 The calculations are all here for that.

12 And then one other thing, the savings in
13 having Clean Electricity mitigate that oil, it's
14 1.94 billion pounds of CO2 a year just by using a
15 hundred out of that 110 megawatts of potassium.

16 So with that, I want to thank you for letting
17 me talk. I'm not used to talking for just three
18 minutes.

19 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

20 ANDREW BREAU: Hello, my name's Andrew
21 Breau. I'm a resident of Farmington here. I'm an
22 electrician and I've worked on numerous --

23 MS. ELY: I'm sorry, is Mr. Breau on the
24 executive board of IBEW?

25 ANDREW BREAU: Yes.

1 MS. ELY: Board members were prohibited
2 from testifying because they're intervenors.

3 ANDREW BREAU: I did not know that.

4 MS. MILLER: Yup, I'm sorry.

5 CLYDE MACDONALD: My name's Clyde
6 MacDonald from Hampden. I was one of the -- on the
7 front lines fighting for the Dickey-Lincoln project
8 years ago. The biggest mistake I think the State made
9 was in turning it down, and I believe the Quebec
10 project is even better than the Dickey-Lincoln project
11 was. I think the key question that all of you folks
12 have to answer is if you're opposed to this project,
13 where do you want the power to come from? Some of them
14 don't have an organization and focus on wind, but all
15 the other arguments that are made against the Quebec
16 line, almost all of them can be made against the wind.
17 Do people know they're going to build a wind farm on
18 the top of one of the mountains and all of our winds
19 are going to be on top of the mountain. You have to
20 build a highway up the side of the mountain bulldozing
21 trees, scaring wildlife and these are not roads that
22 are built for cars. They're built for these
23 26-wheelers that are hauling this multi-ton blaze up
24 the side of the hill.

25 Now in the newspapers many of the opponents

1 have cited the reason they're opposed is because they
2 do not like the idea of a swathe cutting through trees.
3 Well, wind power cuts swathe after swathe after swathe.
4 Where you go up to the top there's a swathe to get rid
5 of all the trees and stuff on the top of the mountains
6 to put the towers in, and then there has to be
7 transmission lines. And those transmission lines again
8 are going to involve cutting trees, destroying wildlife
9 and so on and every one of these towers has between 150
10 and 300 gallons of flammable oil located between 350
11 and 600 feet up in the air. How does that make you
12 feel?

13 I mean, the University in Sweden says that
14 every ten years there are about 200 forest fires in the
15 world that they underreport.

16 I refer you to two weeks ago there was a
17 turbine fire in Halifax, Nova Scotia and I'd like to
18 report -- repeat what the fire chief said. He said
19 that all we can do was stand there and watch it because
20 there's no equipment in the world that can get up to do
21 anything above a turbine fire 350 to 600 feet up in the
22 air, so they just had to stand there and watch it burn.

23 I think there are other things I could say,
24 but the message that I really want to leave is you've
25 got to decide where do you want your power to come

1 from. If it's hydro, Americom and the Maine DEP and
2 these other prejudiced organizations have rolled over
3 and played dead on us, I don't disagree that Americom
4 and DEP have done wonderful work in many areas for the
5 environment, but when it comes to wind power, they're
6 brain dead and they're reporting project after project
7 after project.

8 So with that I'm going to sit down, and I
9 want to conclude by saying what a wonderful tribute it
10 is to the people of these areas and across Maine,
11 people with very strong opinions sitting here quietly
12 listening respectfully to what everyone has to say no
13 matter what side you're on and I feel for you, people
14 that are State officials who have to hear so much
15 repetition. Thank you.

16 MS. MILLER: Thank you, and I agree with
17 your sentiment as well. It's nice to have everybody so
18 peaceful.

19 CLYDE MACDONALD: Oh, by the way, I have
20 copies of what these bulldozers are doing to our
21 mountain tops. This is Mars Hill.

22 MS. MILLER: So let's move on to the
23 next person for testimony.

24 TIM WALTON: Thank you. My name's Tim
25 Walton. I'm a resident of Livermore.

1 MS. ELY: I'm sorry to object, I think
2 Mr. Walton is a board member of the Maine Chamber of
3 Commerce.

4 TIM WALTON: That's correct.

5 MS. ELY: We told our board members that
6 they couldn't come today.

7 MS. MILLER: Yes, board members are
8 not -- who are intervening parties are not allowed to
9 testify at a public hearing.

10 TIM WALTON: Well, that's the shortest
11 testimony I've ever given.

12 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

13 TIM WALTON: I wholeheartedly support
14 the project.

15 MS. MILLER: And the reason for that,
16 just for clarification for everyone in this room, is
17 that the intervening parties have an opportunity to
18 speak and be heard throughout the week's long
19 testimony, so the boards of directors generally
20 represent those intervening parties, and that's why
21 they're not allowed to speak tonight at the public
22 hearing.

23 TIM LABRECQUE: I have one more. I'm
24 speaking on behalf of my son. He's on the list, Arnold
25 LaBrecque, he's special needs. I just wanted to

1 mention a few things regarding those of the lowest
2 disadvantaged income in the state. When you increase
3 costs of electricity, you increase taxes to
4 municipalities. You increase costs of groceries and
5 anything, their Social Security with all the thousands
6 of special needs people we have in the state don't go
7 up proportionate to the cost of electricity. So I'm
8 speaking on behalf of my son, Arnold LaBrecque.

9 MS. MILLER: Just to be fair, I still
10 have a pretty long list of other people that need to
11 speak, so would it be okay if we put you later?

12 TIM LABRECQUE: You called out his name,
13 Arnold LaBrecque, you called it out on the list.

14 MS. MILLER: Okay.

15 TIM LABRECQUE: So when you increase the
16 cost to, say the cost of electricity, all the
17 municipalities, you know, the schools, the fire
18 departments, the hospitals, I mean, the fire
19 departments, police departments, everything goes up,
20 you know, the lights in the streets and then they
21 increase your taxes.

22 When electricity goes up, electricity is one
23 of the biggest costs per supermarkets as an example.
24 The supermarkets are the largest commercial entity
25 consumer in the country using four percent of the

1 nation's electrical energy, that goes up. So all of
2 these increased costs gets burdened on to so many
3 people that are fixed with very, very limited fixed
4 incomes and they have no way to offset that. So I'm
5 very sensitive about how important it is to have these
6 types of real resources that could come in in a big way
7 to our pool of energy and lower the costs. So that's
8 all I want to say on behalf of my son. Thank you.

9 MS. MILLER: Thank you. Okay, I'll
10 start calling a number of other people, Kimberly
11 Schaeffer, Monica McCarthy, Tim Bryant, Raymond Janes,
12 Randall Park, Fred Morrill, Gary Lachance.

13 MONICA MCCARTHY: Hi, I'm Monica
14 McCarthy. I live in Rome and my position on this
15 project is probably not ambiguous. I'd like to
16 acknowledge the long day that you've had. I plan to
17 confine my comments to just a couple of areas that I
18 noticed came up in testimony over the last couple of
19 days before you until some of my fellow citizens
20 brought up climate change as a reason to accelerate the
21 permitting of this project and so I feel compelled to
22 also comment on that since CMP is taking great pains
23 not to address climate change and not to have
24 discussion about greenhouse gas emissions, or any proof
25 of this project's overall impact on greenhouse gas

1 emissions be part of the proceedings.

2 I was there in January during the pretrial
3 conference, I heard their attorney object because it
4 wasn't part of their application, it shouldn't be
5 addressed in the proceedings.

6 If this project is going to continue to be
7 sold to the public as an answer to climate change, I
8 think it's very important that we have transparency
9 about that. I also understand that your jurisdiction
10 is limited in ways that you can view this project and
11 the things that are able to address, but I would just
12 ask that if climate change is going to be continued to
13 be sold as the reason for this that you support things
14 like LD640 and you support a serious look into getting
15 the data about that so that we all understand what the
16 real impacts are and we understand what we're buying
17 for this tremendous cost that we're paying.

18 I also wanted to comment on, and I apologize
19 because I'm not sure what the gentleman's name was, but
20 he spoke earlier this evening, one of my fellow
21 citizens, and he seems to feel that your role was to
22 find a way to permit this project, and as a Maine
23 citizen and taxpayer, I see your roles very
24 differently. I'm looking at each one of you right now
25 and what I see you as is the last line of defense for

1 our land and our air and our water and our precious
2 resources in this state and that will be gone forever
3 if we don't take the steps necessary to safeguard those
4 now. You're the last line of defense. So I would like
5 to encourage you to revisit your role in a way that you
6 are looking at this because I believe that your charter
7 is to safeguard those resources that really are
8 synonymous with Maine's land.

9 So now that I've addressed those two things,
10 I'll go back to a couple of things, just a couple of
11 things that came up over the last couple of days that I
12 want to encourage because we heard a lot about the
13 visual impacts of this and I know for the LUPC this is
14 particularly important, and we heard a lot over the
15 last couple of days about these hundred foot tall south
16 wind monopoles that are going to blend in to the
17 environment. They weren't going to be visually
18 impactful because they were going to be dark brown.
19 But one of the things that got my attention was that
20 none of the four people that were sitting there in the
21 room with you that were represented who did the visual
22 impact studies had ever actually seen one of these in a
23 project. And so they're testifying that this is going
24 to mitigate the visual impact, but there appears no
25 firsthand knowledge of this. And so I would encourage

1 you to look at another project with these or some other
2 visual representations that would provide some more
3 clear and substantial evidence of exactly what the
4 visual impact is going to be.

5 MS. MILLER: I need to ask you to wrap
6 things up.

7 MONICA MCCARTHY: Sure. I'm just about
8 there any way. Clarity over the distance at which it
9 will be visible to AT hikers because I think that I
10 heard someone testify today that it was five miles in
11 either direction and that's most of the AT hikers trail
12 once they get to Maine and I will echo some other
13 comments that Maine is a favorite along the route
14 because of its rugged character.

15 Just to close, I believe that CMP so far has
16 failed to show that this project can be buffered from
17 other existing uses, studies and impacts of
18 directional -- really the impact on fisheries haven't
19 been adequately explored and there are some symbols
20 that are universal and have been playing a game lately
21 and all of the popular culture kind of references if
22 you watch TV shows like the Walking Dead or some movies
23 like the Terminator, what you'll see in the background
24 are those tall utility towers. We go to the woods to
25 unplug. Thank you very much for your time.

1 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

2 GARY LACHANCE: My name is Gary Lachance
3 and I'm a resident of Carrabassett Valley, a native
4 Mainer, and I ask you to please consider this decision
5 because it's forever and it's going to impact that
6 area. The native tribe will never make it and we're
7 one of the last places that have them, even though I'm
8 not a fisherman, it's really important.

9 The global warming issue is going to be
10 added. This is going to be added to the grid. Maine,
11 I believe, we have a power surplus, so we're doing this
12 to get hydropower money and Massachusetts power line in
13 the grid. New Hampshire said no for a reason. It's a
14 really wrong idea. If anybody looks at Lake Champlain,
15 they could run it down the full length of Champlain.
16 The grid is right there at the base of it. There's got
17 to be a better way than to scar this area forever. And
18 we're getting 30 years of benefits for a line that's
19 going to be here forever, think a hundred years down
20 the road, think when this 30 year grace period is up.
21 So I ask you to please consider the long-term effect.
22 Think about a hundred years down the road.

23 If you're going to do it, make them do it
24 where the East West Road corridor is and make them put
25 in a two lane highway, you know? I mean, if you're

1 that serious, make them do it right. Think long term
2 and give us power forever, a percent or a part of
3 percent, whatever is fair, but to get this 30 years is
4 a drop in the bucket.

5 And I just want to say thank you very much
6 for letting me speak today. I really appreciate it and
7 good luck with your decision.

8 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

9 RAYMOND JAMES: I'm Raymond James.

10 MS. MILLER: Can you just pull the mic
11 down a little, thank you.

12 RAYMOND JAMES: I'm Raymond James. I'm
13 from Warren and I'm really -- I've been really agitated
14 about this corridor project because it seems to me that
15 the corporate line of propaganda is riddled with
16 hypocrisy. I think it really is a tremendous hypocrisy
17 because they totally ignore the dilatory effects on the
18 environment.

19 The necessity -- first of all, cutting all
20 these down is going to eliminate a lot of carbon
21 sequestration. After the landscape is raked for this
22 corridor, it becomes necessary for them to maintain it
23 by coating the whole corridor with Round Up, or some
24 other herbicides to prevent growth, you know.

25 It seems to me that -- 70 years ago Rachel

1 Carson was warning us about the danger of DET. Now we
2 have Round Up, which is probably at least as dangerous
3 and is available across the shelf in every Home Depot
4 and I think it's a -- it's just total officiation to
5 ignore that. How soon do we forget about that?

6 MS. MILLER: Thank you, sir.

7 TIM BRYANT: Good evening. My name is
8 Tim Bryant. I'm the least political person in the
9 room, perhaps the city, but I am completely opposed to
10 this and I couldn't help but express my thoughts, so
11 thank you for that.

12 My wife and I lived most of our life in
13 Chesterville, Maine, but our heart is in Upper
14 Enchanted Township in our seasonal home 365 days a
15 year. For that reason we want to left as it is.

16 We go there every chance we get. It is an
17 opportunity to be away from cell phones, from
18 responsibilities, from power and unwind. We go there
19 and refresh our souls. Short of our children and our
20 lives, it's our biggest pleasure.

21 To us it is paradise. We just sit and we
22 watch the animals and to us it's paradise. We just
23 ride around on the woods roads looking at the trees.
24 My wife makes me stop periodically in the fall and I
25 see geesh, what's wrong, I just want to get a picture

1 that red tree, or that red leaf. To her it's paradise.
2 We walk in the woods; we walk on the trails and
3 mountains. To us, yes, paradise. We go out in our
4 canoe and our kayaks in the ponds, again, to us it's
5 paradise.

6 I tie flies, my own flies, and I go fishing
7 and take great pride in fly fishing for native brook
8 trout in the woods of Maine. There's nothing like a
9 native brookie and this projects causes great danger
10 and fear to that species and that environment. I'll
11 tell you, they don't know that they're little the way
12 that they strike. Again, that experience is paradise
13 to us. For that reason, all the those reasons and so
14 many more, this region is paradise and should be left
15 alone.

16 In the '70s Don Henley of the Eagles wrote a
17 song about greed and overdevelopment of the state of
18 California. This song is called The Last Resort. The
19 closing line of that song said if you call some place
20 paradise, kiss it goodbye.

21 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

22 RANDALL PARK: I'm Randall Park from
23 Appleton and I want to thank you for all for staying
24 here so along and listening to all of this testimony.
25 I know it's really tough, but thank you for doing that.

1 It's a great service to the people of Maine.

2 I would like to say that I'm strongly opposed
3 to this project and I would like you to reject it,
4 please. I spent about 20 years of my life in Franklin
5 County and Carrabassett Valley and I hiked the, you
6 know, the great Appalachian Trail many, many times and
7 I don't want to see it destroyed. And I have
8 grandchildren, I know I'm probably getting up there in
9 age, but I'd like my grandchildren to be able to, you
10 know, visit that and hike that trail in peace the way
11 it is now.

12 And to answer the person who said that we
13 have to find out where our power is going to come from,
14 I would like to say the sun provides enough energy in
15 one week to provide all the energy of the entire world
16 for an entire year. I'm sorry, the way I explained it
17 wasn't quite right, but the amount of energy that the
18 sun provides in a week is equal to the amount that's
19 needed for the entire world for one year. I have some
20 solar panels on my house, just one side of the roof is
21 covered and that generates 13,000 kilowatt hours of
22 power per year, which is enough for the entire home.

23 Unfortunately I have a quite disagreement
24 with Central Maine Power, which I think CMP really
25 stands for Criminals, Misfits and Pirates because

1 they're really not actually giving me credit for all of
2 the power that is generated, but really that balance is
3 still underway.

4 In terms of the wind generation issues, all
5 the complaints about the giant wind towers burning and
6 that stand there and watch them, I'm saying that yes,
7 we should not -- we should not invest in those giant
8 horizontal acts as wind turbines, but wind turbines are
9 completely silent. They don't make any noise and they
10 are far better in terms of not affecting wildlife and
11 they are silent. And the other benefit is that they
12 don't burn. I mean, they can take the highest wind
13 possible without exploding and burning.

14 So we ought to think more of distributing
15 power and we can solve the greenhouse gas problem. It
16 is a very important problem. And I want to say also I
17 have a bachelor's in chemistry and I'm not going to go
18 into all the photosynthesis issues, that's not supposed
19 to be talked about tonight, but you know that those
20 trees are helping us and we don't want to cut any down.
21 And you can can't compare that to the working forest,
22 which when after you cut trees in the working forest,
23 they -- the new ground generates new growth, which
24 generates oxygen and it converts the carbon dioxide
25 into oxygen. So there's no comparison between those

1 two and we don't need to deforest and we should not
2 deforest to put up solar panels as a massive scale. We
3 need to have a distributed solar and wind development
4 and it should be small scale. Thank you very much.

5 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

6 FRED MORRILL: I'm Fred Morrill from
7 Tenants Harbor. I'm against this project because it is
8 a mega corporate technological endeavor, you know, so
9 far beyond the hidden scale, it might as well be in
10 another universe and it would be great if it wasn't in
11 this one. So it's a dinosaur and so please do not
12 support it. Thank you very much.

13 MS. MILLER: Thank you. I'm going to
14 run down another list of names, Howard Trotsky, Samuel
15 Day, Mark Rains, Stephen McCarthy, John Cote and
16 William Hughey.

17 HOWARD TROTSKY: Hi, my name is -- first
18 of all, thank you for being here so late. My name is
19 Howard Trotsky and I've had to listen to native Mainers
20 talk about native brook trout, but I must confess
21 before I speak that I'm from Manhattan. I was born,
22 raised and educated there and my father sent me to a
23 summer camp when I was ten years old, fell in love with
24 Maine and have been here since.

25 I'm a resident of Bangor since 1969 and I

1 have a small home in -- a small house in the village of
2 Caratunk. I've taught high school in chemistry and
3 physics in Maine, in Jackman for 21 years. I have a
4 fishery biology degree from the University of Maine and
5 served eight years of four terms in the Maine
6 Legislature as a republican chairman of the Natural
7 Resources Committee, the Energy Committee and the
8 Public Utilities Committee and also the Education
9 Committee.

10 I think I have some perspective in knowing
11 that every major energy source, possibly with the
12 exception of solar, requires an environmental tradeoff.
13 There are no simple solutions. Governor Janet Mills
14 realized that global warming caused by CO2 emissions
15 from burning fossil fuels is an existential threat to
16 our way of life. With good intent she is trying to do
17 something about this locally to reduce the greenhouse
18 gas emissions. The full consequence of global warming
19 are not yet fully known or experienced.

20 However, 53 miles of new transmission line on
21 massive towers through the north Maine woods would
22 fragment and damage the scenic beauty of the western
23 mountains, lakes, rivers and streams of Somerset
24 County. This is an unacceptable tradeoff for any
25 questionable environmental benefits from New England's

1 Energy Connect proposal.

2 In 1941 the Portland Montreal Quebec Pipe
3 Line was built on an existing right of way, the
4 Canadian National Railway rail line. The pipeline was
5 two feet in diameter, buried three feet beneath the
6 surface and ran for 236 miles through Maine, New
7 Hampshire, Vermont and Quebec and 5 million barrels of
8 crude oil was pumped to Montreal.

9 Before the DEP and LURC issue any approvals
10 for this project, which has been rushed through with
11 backroom deals, which some were bribes, the following
12 conditions should be met. First, the DEP should put
13 this project on hold and request that an independent
14 study be made. Senator Carson has introduced LD640 to
15 determine whether there will be significant net
16 greenhouse gas reductions by the construction of this
17 project. We need to know the facts, the real facts.
18 It's hard to tell what the facts are. We could get two
19 sides to the story.

20 MS. MILLER: I'm sorry, can you wrap it
21 up?

22 HOWARD TROTSKY: Yes, I will.

23 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

24 HOWARD TROTSKY: The second, if the
25 transmission project is approved by LUPC, it should

1 require that the transmission line be buried
2 underground and under the Kennebec River so it will
3 partially mitigate the environmental damage caused by
4 fragmentation to the Maine woods and western mountains
5 of Maine or else a possible alternative route could be
6 found. That's basically what I want to say. Thank you
7 very much for your time.

8 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

9 MARK RAINS: I'm Mark Rains. I'm from
10 Vienna, Maine. I have three points of questions about
11 alternative analysis. Will the applicants be able to
12 demonstrate the ability to compensate for avoidable
13 impact to the fire attributed by the tower line or
14 transformer malfunction such as experienced multiple
15 times in California and increasingly risk of global
16 warming leads to drier forests and risk that the Maine
17 woods would catch fire at a scope beyond the past fires
18 that demolished mountains. We need to be assured that
19 the corporations can reimburse damage without being
20 overwhelmed or declaring bankruptcy.

21 Secondly, if this could be prevented by
22 underground lines, that should be fully evaluated,
23 regardless of the profit implications for regional and
24 international stockholders.

25 Although I do not advocate this next action,

1 there is vulnerability, risk and danger of vandalism or
2 terrorism to towers and aboveground lines. If it's
3 spring down towers and lines and cut off electricity to
4 Massachusetts, we have lost the potential climate
5 benefits and fires would add to pollution. If
6 terrorists cover their evidence by setting northern
7 Maine woods on fire, could corporations claim this was
8 an act of war and release themselves from liability for
9 reimbursing families, communities and businesses for
10 fire damage?

11 Again, is this a reason to evaluate
12 alternatives of underground transmission, which I know
13 nothing about, but the alternatives I think should be
14 considered.

15 Quickly, as we approach Maine's bicentennial,
16 I wonder if we are now experiencing something of the
17 columnization imposed on habitats of the Abenaki from
18 Massachusetts and international corporations from 200,
19 300 years ago.

20 Once again, this puts leaders and
21 representatives, our governor perhaps, between a rock
22 and a hard place to negotiate the lesser of negative
23 outcomes in order for corporate interests to profit
24 from our common wealth and resources.

25 We have an opportunity to explore

1 alternatives and learn from that past. The corridor
2 should be considered carefully in the context of a
3 comprehensive energy and economic policy for Maine, not
4 just Massachusetts. Alternatives above or below ground
5 should be safe and ecological for all, not just
6 profitable for shareholders. Thank you.

7 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

8 SAMUEL DAY: Thank for your time this
9 evening. My name is Samuel Day. I'm 22 years old. I
10 grew up in Hallowell, spent my entire life in Maine.
11 It's by no accident that I've chosen to stay here.
12 I've been offered jobs all over the U.S. and decided to
13 start a small construction company here serving
14 Belgrade and Cape Elizabeth. I once chased a girl to
15 Utah and now I'm back coming to my senses with an
16 elementary school teacher here.

17 This morning my previous boss sent me a
18 listing for a house of 1200 feet in front of the Eaton
19 River, 25 acres, a wood shop, everything I wanted,
20 \$210,000, I said that sounds like a deal. So I pulled
21 it up on Google Maps and there's power lines running
22 between the garage and the house. That's all you need
23 to know to know that people value something with that
24 visual impairment much less. People will start to
25 consider the western mountains of Maine the same way.

1 Many people more qualified and eloquent have
2 broken down the numbers and spoken to the studies,
3 polls, precedence and glaring ecological and economical
4 misgivings that we have insidiously throughout the CMP,
5 HQ, Western Mountains and Rivers managed the clean
6 energy jobs and -- my testimony will be more anecdotal.

7 I spent a large chunk of my eighth grade
8 summer volunteering for the Maine brook trout project.
9 I carried miles into pounds, turned circle maps --
10 circled ponds on topo maps and notes were in the
11 margins of Maine Gazetteers into what became a map of
12 Maine's greatest most unique treasures, the Maine brook
13 trout. The ponds they called home stuck in the region
14 of this corridor without any damage. You may think who
15 cares, it's just a fish.

16 What's more important is what these fish
17 represent. Ecologically intact areas are resilient
18 with an abundance of cold, clear, clean water in and
19 out of undisturbed knolls and valleys and yes, I said
20 undisturbed. Maine's forestry practices are world
21 renown for a low impact sustainability both
22 ecologically and financially and compatibility with
23 other rare conditional uses and wildlife.

24 That is the antithesis of what CMP is
25 proposing. There's no secret in balancing economics,

1 energy and the environment is a game of give and take.
2 I'm not anti-development by any means, what I am is a
3 pro nuance anti-bull crap and the most of the
4 industry-sponsored greenhouse gas emission studies and
5 misleading financial promises qualify as a record. We
6 need to protect what we have left.

7 The affected region's culture and natural
8 resources are more than a bargaining chip, but if we're
9 going to treat them that way, we need to thoroughly
10 scrutinize any deals that we make. There's a current
11 legislation in the work session that give us that
12 chance. LD640 sponsored by Brownie Carson would
13 require further third party greenhouse gas emissions --

14 COURT REPORTER: I need you to slow
15 down.

16 SAMUEL DAY: Oh, okay, I'm sorry.
17 Before we cut our nose off to save our face, all the
18 facts should be on the table. Hippies and rednecks,
19 liberals and conservatives, northern Mainers and
20 southern Mainers have all come together to fight this
21 hand in hand. In this day and age that belongs to the
22 DEP and LUPC to honor the concerns of the vast majority
23 of those they represent and deny these permits.

24 Although they Leopold said I am glad I will
25 not be young in the future without wilderness. That is

1 a future I am facing. I trust this body to act in
2 Maine's best interest. Please do not make expediential
3 decisions based on benefits that are mere speculation.
4 Please do not gamble the Maine woods away. Thank you
5 for your time.

6 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

7 JOHN COTE: I'm John Cote, resident of
8 Manchester. I want to thank you guys for being here
9 and listening to all of us. I know it's a long day.
10 There's a number points I could address, but I think
11 we'll just talk about esthetics that I think was one of
12 the points you guys were looking for feedback on. And
13 I do want to say that I treat climate change very
14 seriously. I think it is a threat to our environment.
15 With that said, I am opposed to this project.

16 I think that we've not really explored all
17 the options that are available to us. I will just give
18 you an amicable experience with CMP. I was -- I grew
19 up in Lewiston and I was -- I owned some property that
20 abutted their corridor between 2001 and 2016. During
21 that time they're doing the reliability upgrade, I
22 believe that's what they sold it as. I'm not sure what
23 we got for our money there, but my -- the first time I
24 found out about that was something in the mail saying
25 they're going to be doing some survey work for a long

1 time and having the power lines right in my backyard
2 was not a big deal to have, you know, some woods in
3 between and it seemed great, but they were expanding
4 that line and it was going to be going right up against
5 my residence, and a lot of other people living next to
6 that line experienced the same thing.

7 And so the number of us residents came
8 together to advocate for ourselves and to try to
9 schedule some meetings with CMP to address concerns
10 that we had about our property values, that kind of
11 thing. I felt for myself in that process that they
12 really already the decision made as to what that they
13 wanted to do. The way that they kind of mitigated that
14 was by putting power lines pretty much right over our
15 houses. They put up those, I think they call them
16 self-weathering poles.

17 So I would say as far as aesthetics, you
18 know, I welcome you to come down to Lewiston sometime,
19 you know, go by where the poles, you know, cross 126
20 and you tell me if that would be compatible, you know,
21 with the Maine wilderness. I found it pretty ugly and
22 when I moved I was very happy and I took a loss on the
23 place. And just taking a ride between Lewiston and
24 heading up towards Augusta going through West Gardiner,
25 it seems like there's just a lot of transmission lines

1 everywhere.

2 I ask, you know, I mean, is that the best way
3 to go about, you know, creating this outcome? If
4 Massachusetts needs this power so badly, I think they
5 can come up with the money somehow, you know, mitigate
6 some of the effects of this. I know that we're all
7 part of the New England grid and we need reliable power
8 and I know having it from a single source is the
9 smartest way to do it. I think it's dangerous relying
10 on one thing, but, you know, even growing up in an
11 industrial city, it just seems to me that the
12 aesthetics of the line, they just did not make very
13 good choices, even where the lines cross over the
14 Androscoggin River is kind of, you know, a shame to
15 look at that sight.

16 So, you know, come down and look at it and
17 tell me if you'd want to live next to those things,
18 regardless of the north woods. I'm not a resident of
19 the north woods. I appreciate the wilderness that's up
20 there, but I feel bad for the people who abut the line
21 all the way, you know, into Farmington, Livermore Falls
22 who might have to be next to this thing. I mean, these
23 poles, I wonder if CMP, you know, is really keeping our
24 interest in mind in that way and looking at the best
25 alternatives. I thank you for your time.

1 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

2 WILLIAM HUGHEY: Thank you for allowing
3 me to speak. My name is William Hughey. I traveled
4 down here from Moose River this evening. We live in
5 the area that NECEC project is proposed to be
6 constructed and we are opposed to this project, this is
7 myself, my wife and my daughter who weren't able to
8 come tonight, because it will have a tremendous effect
9 on the last vestige of relatively undeveloped wilderness
10 in the great State of Maine.

11 We have also included letters of opposition
12 from the town of Moose River from our vote and from the
13 Jackman Utility District, which you may or may not have
14 received prior to tonight. They were supposed to be
15 sent out, but if not, I have a copies.

16 MS. MILLER: You can provide copies to
17 Mr. Madore.

18 WILLIAM HUGHEY: This will affect future
19 generations of Mainers and where and how they live and
20 recreate forever. The clause of this proposed HVDC
21 transmission line are innumerable and the negative
22 impacts are enormous while the benefits are truly none
23 for Maine's environment, economy, citizens and our way
24 of life. There is no level of mitigation that can
25 prevent the everlasting catastrophe to prove what this

1 project would have on the state and on our area.

2 The visual impact at the overlook and the Old
3 Canada Road Scenic Byway will be devastated. Recently
4 binoculars were added by the Old Canada Road group and
5 this will give you nice close-up views of the lines
6 that are dissecting the panoramic view into two.

7 Some of the proponents state that the area
8 where this green field, as the Avangrid calls it, is
9 not pristine, and to a lesser extent they are correct.
10 However, the areas are a vast, remote, working forest
11 that provides unlimited opportunities to be away from
12 it all and to experience the scenic beauty without
13 industrial infrastructure.

14 For example, take Three Slide Mountain,
15 there's a notch there, it's about 20 miles out on the
16 Spencer Road and you drive through and on your left
17 you'll have a big beautiful mountain with three rock
18 slides and then there's a notch you can go to and then
19 on the right there will be a beautiful cliff faces and
20 now picture it with hundred foot poles and power lines
21 going through there. It will no longer be one of the
22 most beautiful places that I've seen in my life.

23 And potentially in a couple of years when CMP
24 reapplies and wants to put transmission lines for wind
25 towers on the north side, this line will be running on

1 south as they've stated, to make it even worse, as well
2 it's more environmental impact.

3 The undeveloped areas of Franklin and
4 Somerset Counties have been high on the wind scammers
5 list for over 20 years now and this project will make
6 the transmission hurdle much cheaper for them, which
7 has been a major holdup over the years, which is
8 contrary to them saying that it will mean less wind
9 towers. Either way it's going to mean more. They're
10 thinking long term, we need to think long term.

11 The remaining thousands upon thousands of
12 people that come to western Maine to get away from it
13 all and explore the wild untamed hunting beauty that we
14 have to offer will go somewhere else that isn't marred
15 and scarred by industrial development that destroys the
16 environment for extreme profits in the name of saving,
17 which is quite the irony.

18 The crossing of 115 streams and multiple
19 rivers, many of which are vital to Maine being the last
20 safe haven for the eastern brook trout will be
21 endangered due to herbicides, such as Arsenal, which is
22 one that was approved for CMP's use by you guys. I
23 believe 2015 was the most recent I could find the
24 information, which is not a widely safe product. As we
25 all know, there's what, 12, 15,000 lawsuits of people

1 getting cancer from this stuff.

2 Also, the fact that Hydro-Quebec most likely
3 isn't increasing their actual capacity until 2024 or
4 possibly later, that it will be just shifting from the
5 contracts that are existing, which those people would
6 have to get their electricity from somewhere as well.
7 Would it be more renewables? Possibly. Would it be
8 fossil fuel? Possibly. Nobody really knows and we
9 can't get the answers.

10 But the future of Maine is on the line here,
11 remember that the motto of our state is Dirigo, I lead.
12 Protecting our area from this type of development that
13 pretends to be green and environmentally responsible is
14 the true way to lead.

15 Our children will thank us when they can look
16 out over our ridges and valleys and not see row upon
17 row of wind turbines on the ridges and transmission
18 lines going through valleys. It will be a nice thing
19 if they don't ask us why we didn't stop it when we
20 could. Thank you.

21 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

22 STEVE MCCARTHY: Good evening, my name's
23 Steve McCarthy. I'd like to thank everybody here for
24 coming out tonight taking the time off for or against
25 and thank you folks for allowing us to speak.

1 I'm going talk to the facts that I've learned
2 from listening to CMP and some of their spokespeople.
3 It is up to 1700 jobs, not guaranteed 1700 jobs. Out
4 of those jobs zero are guaranteed to Mainers, zero jobs
5 guaranteed. It's up to 3500 direct and indirect jobs,
6 no guarantee where those jobs will be going or coming
7 from or going to. They chose this route because
8 eventually they're going to supply either a conduit for
9 windmills or as has been stated, they're already the
10 third largest windmill producer in the United States,
11 they want to expand that.

12 Mr. Dickinson and I had conversation while
13 out snowmobiling this year when he explained to me that
14 on the side of Johnson Mountain they had it permitted,
15 but they lost the bid because they couldn't be
16 competitive in transmission, transmission meaning get
17 the power from the windmill to the line. They're not
18 going to get that wrong again. If this goes through,
19 the aesthetics beyond the poles will be the windmills.

20 The route was chosen directly for the wind
21 production. Cianbro has 39 test sites that test
22 positive along the route that was given to me by a
23 Cianbro individual, so taken in conjunction with the
24 poles and the windmills, this route was chosen
25 directly. They could have chosen to run the pole line

1 along gravel roads that exist from Quebec to Route 201.
2 They could have chose to bury that. They chose not to.

3 Beyond that, the internet that they're
4 talking about, the broadband, is on the poles. CMP is
5 not putting that into your communities. It is \$25,000
6 a mile from the pole into town. It doesn't matter if
7 it goes to 20 houses, 25 houses a hundred houses. It's
8 \$25,000 per mile from the pole. The reason that it's
9 not there now in the sparsely populated areas is
10 because the companies that provide it as a service
11 can't make the money. It's not that they can't get it
12 there in many communities, it already borders the
13 communities, but the big companies that sell it to the
14 public cannot make enough money off it to make it
15 viable.

16 Mr. -- they stated they chose the most
17 eloquent route to avoid all of the areas possible that
18 would cause detrimental harm, including vernal pools,
19 waterways, grids, ponds, lakes, streams. They didn't.
20 They could have followed the gravel road, but it's
21 because of the windmills that are going to affect the
22 view of this entire area that thousands of people go to
23 yearly, that I have taken myself for 12 years as a
24 white water guide into this area and the reason people
25 go there is for the wilderness. It is going to cause

1 detrimental harm, visually, environmentally and as a
2 whole to our economy.

3 In closing, I'll say these two things, the
4 Conservation Law Foundation opposed this project in New
5 Hampshire, but they're approved it for CMP. And the
6 last thing I'll say -- I won't say anything else.
7 Thank you folks.

8 MS. MILLER: Thank you.

9 JAN COLLINS: My name is Jan Collins. I
10 live in Wilton. I grew up in here. Maine has been my
11 home all of my life.

12 MS. MILLER: Hold on a second, you
13 signed in already?

14 JAN COLLINS: No, I'm sorry.

15 MS. MILLER: Okay. I need to swear you
16 in and I just need to make sure I got your name
17 correctly.

18 JAN COLLINS: Okay.

19 MS. MILLERS: So let me add you to the
20 list. Jan you said? Jan?

21 JAN COLLINS: Yes, Collins.

22 MS. MILLER: Collins, okay. Okay. So I
23 need you to raise your right hand. Do you swear or
24 affirm that the testimony you are about to give is the
25 whole truth and nothing but the truth?

1 JAN COLLINS: I do. As I was saying,
2 I'm Jan Collins. I'm from Wilton. I grew up in
3 Wilton, have lived in Maine all my life and for a long
4 part of my life I thought Wilton was the center of the
5 universe and part of that was due to my experiences
6 climbing in the mountains around this area and being
7 able to look out in all directions and see nothing but
8 mountains and trees.

9 In high school I was part of the Youth
10 Conservation Corps working on the Appalachian Trail in
11 Township E. If you don't know where that is, it's near
12 Rangeley. That experience allowed me to meet through
13 hikers hiking the entire Appalachian Trail and they
14 assured me that Maine was the most beautiful state on
15 the entire trail.

16 A few years later I hiked from the New
17 Hampshire border to Katahdin and fell in love with it
18 again. Then the next year decided to hike from Georgia
19 to Maine thinking that all of the trail looked like it
20 did in Maine and New Hampshire and being very surprised
21 to find that the Appalachian Trail in Maine and New
22 Hampshire is very different from anywhere else along
23 the eastern coast.

24 In Maine in particular you have a sense of
25 wilderness that is not available anywhere else along

1 the trail, even in New Hampshire, which is very close,
2 you have people driving up to the top of Mount
3 Washington and easily accessing the trail. All of it,
4 believe it or not, after I finished the trail my first
5 time, I went back and did it again, this time knowing
6 that Maine would be the star of the entire Appalachian
7 Trail.

8 I am telling you this because I need you to
9 know what I know in my heart and what most people in
10 this room already know as well, that what we have here
11 is something precious and unique that cannot be
12 duplicated anywhere else in the east and I would argue
13 anywhere in the country.

14 I traveled by plane to New York City and
15 watched as I flew over ever increasingly congested
16 areas that were filled only with houses. I traveled to
17 Europe and discovered that wilderness no longer exists
18 anywhere in Europe.

19 MS. MILLER: Can I ask just you to wrap
20 this up, please?

21 JAN COLLINS: Yes. I think I have, but
22 I want to say to all of you that this is worth -- this
23 is worth preserving. It is worth not breaking into
24 small pieces. It's worth having wilderness. Thank
25 you.

1 MS. MILLER: Thank you. So I have gone
2 through all the list and called all the names on these
3 lists, and if you have not heard your name called, it's
4 possible I may have missed you. David is going to run
5 back to check and if see if there's any more. In the
6 meantime, is there anybody in here who would like to
7 speak who has not signed up who would like the
8 opportunity to do so? Okay. Do you want to --

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I am an intervenor,
10 but I'm not attempting to testify. I would just like
11 to clear up confusion on a member who was here earlier
12 who wanted to testify. He's from a different union and
13 not an intervenor union, so I just wanted to ask if I
14 give could give his testimony, submit his testimony for
15 him? So there are four different IBEWs in Maine and
16 his was a different --

17 MS. MILLER: We'll take it.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you very much.

19 MS. MILLER: It doesn't look like
20 anybody else wants to speak, so before I close this
21 hearing with comments, I just want to say thank you to
22 everybody remaining here for your calmness and your
23 patience throughout this process and your
24 participation, so thank you for all of your
25 participation in this hearing. This hearing will

1 conclude after the rest of the party or intervenor
2 witnesses have completed their testimony, and that's
3 going to take place on May 9th of '19.

4 At that point the record will remain open as
5 follows, for ten days after the close of the hearing on
6 May 9th, members of the public only may submit written
7 statements to the Department and Commission. That's
8 May 20th. For seven additional days after that,
9 members of the public only may file rebuttal statements
10 to those written statements received in that previous
11 ten-day window, so that puts it to May 27th. Parties
12 or intervenors will not be allowed to submit comments
13 after the hearing concludes on May 9th. However, they
14 have the opportunity to provide closing briefs,
15 proposed findings of fact and rebuttal briefs.

16 It is anticipated that the transcript of this
17 hearing will take about 30 days to be completed after
18 this week and I understand that after the May 9th date,
19 the transcript for that day will take an additional
20 week. This will be provided to the parties and it can
21 be made available to the public upon request.

22 I will now officially close this evening
23 portion of the hearing. Thank you again for your
24 participation. For parties and others who would like
25 to be here tomorrow, we will resume at 9 a.m., and it's

1 going to be at the Dining Hall C location where we were
2 today earlier. Thank you.

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(Concluded at 8:58 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I, Lorna M. Prince, a Court Reporter and
Notary Public within and for the State of Maine, do
herby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate
transcript of the proceedings as taken by me by means
of stenograph.

and I have signed:

/s/ Lorna M. Prince

Court Reporter/Notary Public

My Commission Expires: February 6, 2026

Dated: May 3, 2019

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