

**OLD CANADA ROAD NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY**  
P.O. BOX 301 BINGHAM, MAINE 04920

Mr. James Beyer  
Regional Licensing and Compliance manager  
Bureau of Land Resources  
Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
106 Hogan Road Suite 6  
Bangor, Maine 04401

July 12, 2018

Dear Mr. Beyer,  
Old Canada Road National Scenic Byway, Inc. (OCR) by unanimous vote of its Board of Directors asks to be considered as an intervenor in the New England Clean Energy Connect Project as proposed by Central Maine Power Company. OCR has been a 501 c 3 organization since 2002, two years after the seventy-eight miles of Rt. 201 was selected as a National Scenic Byway by FHWA. We are active in elevating the visitor experience along the corridor from Solon to the Border by creating trails and interpretive signage designed to enlighten residents and visitors on the heritage and culture of the Upper Kennebec Valley Region.

Guided by our Mission we are concerned about the visual effect that the 300 ft. corridor and 100 ft. tall transmission line will have on our travelers to whom we are offering an un-interrupted Maine Experience. While the Byway is identified as Rt. 201, the Maine experience is not provided by staying on the pavement. Views from the road and trails are very important to our purpose. There are also positives to the project and the Directors wish to be an objective participant in meetings and informational sessions. Our Board occupations range from business owners, elected representative, educator, retired paper industry, and very involved public individuals. Geographically they live and work from Solon to Parlin Pond. Our primary spokesperson will be the Byway coordinator, Bob Haynes, who expects to be available for all meetings.

Much has changed since Massachusetts released it request for proposals to supply water generated electricity from Quebec Hydro. Sources, need, and efficiency as well as the new England grid marketing all factor into whether this project will still provide a substantial net reduction in carbon emissions. Many questions remain insufficiently answered such as direct benefit to Maine and the jobs provided by small electric generators.

We look forward to being active in the process and objective discussion. Thank you for your consideration.

For the Directors,

*Bob*

Bob Haynes, Coordinator

### **Old Canada Road Vision**

***Old Canada Road Scenic Byway is recognized as a destination of intriguing cultural and historical interpretation, invigorating recreational opportunities and generous hospitality amid spectacular Maine scenery.***

### **OCR Mission**

***Old Canada Road Scenic Byway will strive, with broad civic and business partnerships, to educate residents and traveling public about the area history, culture, and natural features while promoting traditional scenic integrity.***