



STATE OF MAINE
 COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS
 AND ELECTION PRACTICES
 135 STATE HOUSE STATION
 AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0135

To: Commission
 From: Michael J. Dunn, Esq.
 Date: 03/30/2020
 Re: Ballot Initiatives on Disclosure Website

Please accept this informational memorandum as an explanation for how the Maine Ethics Commission’s campaign finance website handles ballot initiatives relative to Clean Energy Matters’ waiver request. Specifically, in the PAC’s waiver request, the PAC indicates that “the Commission itself has not separated the first NECEC initiative from the second in terms of the information that is made available to the public.” The Commission staff disagrees.

When a PAC discloses an expenditure to support or oppose a ballot question, the PAC must select the specific question from a drop-down list on the data entry screen. The campaign finance website treats each ballot initiative as a separate and distinct entity in the system. Once the Commission staff received the language for the second NECEC initiative from the Secretary of State, we created a distinct initiative in the system. The snippets below show the total spending to support and oppose the two NECEC-related initiatives:

TITLE: Resolve, To Reject the New England Clean Energy Connect Transmission Project

FAILED/TERMINATED

Question Number:

Election Date:

Resolve, To Reject the New England Clean Energy Connect Transmission Project

COMMITTEES		EXPENDITURES TO SUPPORT		EXPENDITURES TO OPPOSE	
Committee	Committee Type	Committee Status	Stance	Expenditures to Support	Expenditures to Oppose
CMP POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE	Political Action Committee	Active	Oppose	\$0.00	\$0.00
No CMP Corridor	Political Action Committee	Active	Support	\$94,217.87	\$0.00
Clean Energy Matters	Political Action Committee	Active	Oppose	\$0.00	\$10,306,237.08
Hydro-Québec Maine Partnership	Ballot Question Committee	Active	Oppose	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mainers for Local Power	Political Action Committee	Active	Support	\$1,638,728.50	\$0.00

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OFFICE LOCATED AT: 45 MEMORIAL CIRCLE, AUGUSTA, MAINE
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An Act To Require Legislative Approval of Certain Transmission Lines, Require Legislative Approval of Certain Transmission Lines and Facilities and Other Projects on Public Reserved Lands and Prohibit

IN CIRCULATION

Question Number:

Election Date: 11/02/2021

An Act To Require Legislative Approval of Certain Transmission Lines, Require Legislative Approval of Certain Transmission Lines and Facilities and Other Projects on Public Reserved Lands and Prohibit the Construction of Certain Transmission Lines in the Upper Kennebec Region

COMMITTEES		EXPENDITURES TO SUPPORT		EXPENDITURES TO OPPOSE	
Committee	Committee Type	Committee Status	Stance	Expenditures to Support	Expenditures to Oppose
No CMP Corridor	Political Action Committee	Active	Support	\$0.00	\$0.00
Clean Energy Matters	Political Action Committee	Active	Oppose	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hydro-Québec Maine Partnership	Ballot Question Committee	Active	Oppose	\$0.00	\$0.00

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No expenditures to support or oppose the second NECEC initiative have been reported yet. Those are expected for the reports due April 12, 2021. As you can see, the two resolves are treated separately, have their own information, and tallies of information. The Committees can now select NECEC II instead of NECEC I for reporting their expenditures. The Committees have also amended their registrations to reflect their work on NECEC II.

Regarding reports filed by the Committees, the reports would be side by side, but each expenditure would list which initiative the expenditure was made for:

10/27/2020	Patriot Consulting LLC 45 MELVILLE ST AUGUSTA, ME, 04330	Political Strategy and Town Hall Services PAYMENT OF \$50,600.00 TO OPPOSE: Resolve, To Reject the New England Clean Energy Connect Transmission Project	PRO	\$50,600.00
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This allows the public to determine which initiative each committee is working on without creating a new committee that can potentially be harder to find or more confusing for the public.

Thank you for considering this information.