

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Determination of the Validity of a Petition for Initiated Legislation Entitled:

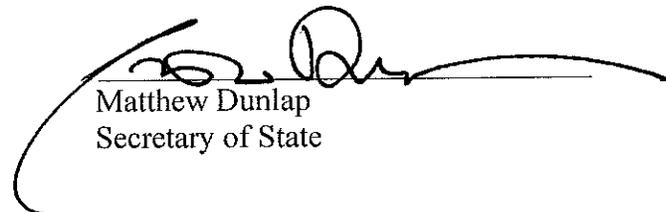
“Resolve, To Reject the New England Clean Energy Connect Transmission Project”

1. On February 3, 2020, 15,785 petitions containing 82,449 signatures were submitted to the Secretary of State pursuant to the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 18 on behalf of the above-entitled initiated legislation.
2. Following a review of these 15,785 petitions I find the following signatures to be invalid for the following reasons:
 - A. 6,260 signatures are invalid because they were not certified by the registrar as belonging to a registered voter in that municipality. (REG)
 - B. 2,483 signatures are invalid because they are duplicates of signatures already counted. (DUP)
 - C. 811 signatures are invalid because the status of the circulators as residents of Maine could not be confirmed. (RES)
 - D. 744 signatures are invalid because the circulator did not file a circulator’s affidavit at the time the petitions were filed with the Secretary of State. (AFF)
 - E. 577 signatures are invalid because the circulator collected signatures prior to becoming registered to vote in the State of Maine. (CIRC)
 - F. 462 signatures are invalid because the voter dated his or her signature after the date of the circulator’s oath before the notary or the voter’s signature was not dated and it could not be determined that the voter signed the petition before the circulator took the oath. (DATE)
 - G. 336 signatures are invalid because the circulator’s oath was not complete or not administered properly. (OATH)
 - H. 313 signatures are invalid because the petition was submitted to the municipal registrar for determination of whether the petitioners were qualified voters after the deadline set by the Maine Constitution, Article IV, Part Third, Section 20. (AMD)
 - I. 241 signatures are invalid because the voter’s signature was crossed out on the petition form. (WD)
 - J. 206 signatures are invalid because the circulator’s oath was not completed prior to submitting the petition to the registrar for certification. (PRIOR)
 - K. 128 signatures are invalid because of material alterations to the petition. (ALT)

- L. 102 signatures are invalid because the voter failed to provide a signature. (SIG)
- M. 58 signatures are invalid because the registered voter's signature was made by another. (ANO)
- N. 11 signatures are invalid because the certification of the registrar was not completed. (CERT)
- O. 2 signatures are invalid because the notary was related to the circulator. (OWN)
- P. 1 signature is invalid because the petition was not on the approved form. (FORM)

3. For the reasons set forth above, on the 15,785 petition forms filed with the Secretary of State, I find that 12,735 signatures are invalid and 69,714 signatures are valid. The number of signatures required to determine the petition to be valid is 63,067. Because the number of valid signatures exceeds the required number by 6,647 signatures, I find the petition to be valid¹.

Dated: March 4, 2020



Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State

¹ On February 24 and 27, 2020, our office received information from opponents of this initiative suggesting that certain commissioned notaries who administered the oath to circulators of petitions for the above-referenced citizen initiative may have performed other services to initiate or promote the petition, in violation of 21-A M.R.S. §903-E(1) and 4 M.R.S. §954-A. This office did not have sufficient time, however, to investigate this matter prior to the statutory deadline for issuing this decision and thus make no findings regarding the allegations.