

Thursday, February 7, 2019

To the members of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection & Maine Land Use Planning Commission:

I am writing to inform you of my vehement position against the transmission line being proposed by Central Maine Power. As a lifetime Mainer, former commercial raft guide and extensive user of a lot of the recreational opportunities that can be enjoyed in the "proposed corridor" I believe this would have an extremely negative impact on the future of this area, both recreationally and economically.

The best way I can express my concern is to make a comparison to the Friends of Bigelow that saved one of the gems of the Maine North Woods in 1976 from massive development that would've ultimately changed that area as we know it today. As society continually encroaches and eliminates natural areas in the name of profit and development we continue to destroy something that I believe will come to be one of our biggest regrets in hindsight. As it stands, we have one of our brightest opportunities for economic development right in front of our eyes. In the vast continuous forest and pristine waterways that extend beyond the horizons from every peak that can be climbed in the area encompassed by the communities from Rangeley to Millinocket and Aroostook County, tourism is and will continue to be the economic engine for the people that live there.

I understand the necessity to create and increase more economic opportunities for the people of Maine, which is why it is imperative to prevent this transmission line. The large majority of the jobs created by this project will only be temporary and more than likely, the jobs will be occupied by people from away. CMP has been exaggerating and outright lying on many of the claims they have made regarding the benefits. From their recent track record, multinational corporate roots and sole objective of accumulating a massive profit, how can we even begin to believe that they have the best interests in the future economic opportunities for this area?

We should be embracing this portion of the largest tract of untouched forest east of the Mississippi River all within a day's drive for the 60 million people from the western hemisphere's largest conglomeration of population known as the Northeast Megalopolis. The more stressful that the demands of modern society become and the more detached we become due to technology, there will inevitably come a point where the vast majority of people find an urgency to "unplug" and "detox" by seeking out recreational activities that only areas that we live on the doorstep of can offer. Let's not choose poorly by jumping on the silver trinkets being offered by those from away that only care for immediate profit at our state's long term potential and prosperity's expense. If this transmission line is allowed to proceed it will cut a swath through the heart of this potential that will never be able to be undone. Please choose wisely and reject this power line. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Christian Loef  
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*"I give Sandra Howard, permission to submit this letter as part of my sworn testimony." - C.L.*