

11/25/18

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to ask you to oppose the CMP transmission line project. As a resident of Maine and as a Registered Maine Fishing Guide, I spend a large amount of time on the rivers and streams in Somerset County. In fact, a high percentage of my "time on the water", personally or with guests, is spent on the Kennebec and Dead Rivers and their many tributaries. I have both a moral and economic interest in the preservation of the waters and surrounding lands that will undoubtedly be affected by the completion of this project.

People hire Maine guides for the opportunity to safely experience the peace and solitude that Maine's wilderness can provide. Large transmission lines not only interrupt this experience, but often remind visitors and residents alike of the world they wished to have left behind, if only for a brief period of time.

I have significant concerns about the environmental impact of such a large scale project. The Eastern Maine Brook Trout is a staple of the Maine experience. It is iconic in it's coloring and is used for marketing purposes across the economic spectrum. The wild Brook Trout requires cold water and a clean network of small, healthy streams to effectively reproduce. These small streams are at risk for habitat degradation through the construction process. Even with appropriate culverts, silt from runoff due to road construction can clog gills and cause sediment build up in the gravel beds necessary for successful reproduction.

In addition to the above mentioned environmental impacts, I question the benefits to the Maine economy. I expect that the construction jobs will be short-term and will lack the benefits necessary to be considered truly beneficial to with the individual or the economy as a whole. The energy transmitted through this corridor will be connecting Canada and Massachusetts. Maine and its environment are simply being used as a surrogate for the delivery of this energy. I have seen no evidence demonstrating how this project will lower energy costs for Maine residents and certainly no evidence to show how any potential short-term benefits would outweigh the long-term, irreversible damage to Maine's scenic woods and waters.

Maine is different than other places, please help keep it that way!

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Ireland
Registered Maine Guide
maineflyfishingguide@gmail.com
(207) 931 - 7677