June 12, 2019

The 129th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 129th Legislature:


A critical function of state government is to set fair, consistent policies. The state's well-established regulatory and permitting processes - both fair and consistent - have been put in place to weigh and balance the public's wide array of interests and to insulate what must be fact - and evidenced - based decisions from the political pressures of the day.

Unfortunately, this bill is a clear eleventh-hour attempt to disrupt these well-established processes in order to derail a single project. By providing municipalities with the decision-making authority over a proposal with statewide benefits, the Legislature in effect is giving towns disproportionate control over the interests of every person in the state.

That in and of itself is poor public policy, but it also sends a larger, more alarming message to those seeking to invest in our state that Maine is erratic and inconsistent in its policies – the result of which will be to drive private investment toward other states with clear and reasonable permitting guidelines. I would veto this bill regardless of the New England Clean Energy Connect proposal because it is simply bad public policy for the State of Maine.

For these reasons, I return LD 1363 unsigned and vetoed.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor
State of Maine
H.C. 207

STATE OF MAINE
CLERK'S OFFICE
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

June 12, 2019

Honorable Sara Gideon
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Gideon:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the following Joint Standing Committees have voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass:"

Education and Cultural Affairs
L.D. 405       An Act To Increase the Statewide Minimum Salary for Teachers

Judiciary
L.D. 1183      Resolve, To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Remote Participation by Members of Public Bodies (EMERGENCY)
L.D. 1507      An Act Relating to Amateur Radio Service

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of House