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## **COMMUNITY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS CONCERNS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PROPOSED POWER LINE**

(Farmington, Maine) – Tonight, community members and Franklin County Commissioners met with representatives from Central Maine Power to learn more about the proposed New England Clean Energy Connect Project, which would carry power from government-owned Hydro Quebec dams in Canada to service Massachusetts.

This project, which was selected after a similar proposal failed in New Hampshire, has before tonight, escaped the public scrutiny an infrastructure project of its magnitude deserves. Electric generators in the State of Maine are concerned that the line would not lower ratepayers' rates and would undermine current and future electricity supply investments, all to satisfy unreachable public policy goals. This project also subsidizes foreign government-owned power generation while subjecting Maine based generators to the incredibly competitive New England, wholesale electricity market.

Jeremy Payne, Executive Director of [Maine Renewable Energy Association](#) said “Maine’s can-do spirit is strong, and its traditions of sustainably harvesting natural resources rich – since the early 2000s we have realized tremendous jobs and investment from Maine-made clean energy sources. If the Commonwealth of Massachusetts seeks to reduce its carbon footprint, there are many Maine-based generators who stand ready to provide that supply. And notably, that supply will directly benefit our local and state economies with clean, indigenous sources,” explained Payne. “Further, all of the currently available public information from CMP and Hydro Quebec effectively asks all Mainers to ‘just trust us, NECEC will be great for you.’ Given CMP’s ongoing issues related to the myriad of issues arising from the October windstorm, and their apparent substantial customer overbilling irregularities, we must ask the hard questions and demand transparency and accountability. The benefits from existing Maine-made electricity are clear: long-term jobs, significant wages paid to Mainers, and critical property taxes across Maine communities – we cannot put that at risk to help increase profits for CMP and the Canadian government”

“This project is about serving Massachusetts politics; it’s based on a carved-out contract between Massachusetts utilities and Hydro-Quebec that will come directly at the expense of the power generation industry here in Maine,” said Dan Dolan, President of the [New England Power Generators Association](#). “Maine isn’t the problem. The state has seen consistently decreasing wholesale electricity prices over the last 15 years, which have been masked to consumer because of dramatic increases in transmission spending over the last decade. Maine currently enjoys an overabundance of electricity production. Companies that own power plants in Maine have a hard enough time getting their electricity to southern New England without additional congestion problems – a problem which this project will do nothing to alleviate. Instead of increasing competition, this proposal tries to smother competition.”

This community meeting was the first step in educating the public on an important issue that has so far failed to see much light of day.

*The Maine Renewable Energy Association (MREA) is a not-for-profit association of renewable power producers, suppliers, and supporters of the renewable power industry in Maine. MREA leads the local and statewide policy debate on renewable energy generation in Maine, and works to ensure its efforts are united with those of its member companies.*

*The New England Power Generators Association’s (NEPGA) mission is to support competitive wholesale electricity markets in New England. We believe that open markets guided by stable public policies are the best means to provide reliable and competitively-priced electricity for consumers. A sensible, market-based approach furthers economic development, jobs and balanced environmental policy for the region. Follow us on [@NEPowerGen](#)*