

January 23, 2023

Attention: Philip L. Bartlett II, Chair
Commissioner Randall D. Davis
Commissioner Patrick Scully
Maine Public Utilities Commission
18 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Mr. Chairman Bartlett, Commissioner Davis, and Commissioner Scully,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to say how thrilled we are that the Maine Public Utilities Commission and the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources have both found that King Pine wind farm and LS Power transmission line are in the interest of each state's ratepayers.

There is little doubt that Maine's business community has been hard hit by the pricing spikes we have all seen due to geopolitical forces abroad. But as "The Voice of Maine Business" we have been hearing similar concerns regarding energy prices for many decades. This is why I was so happy to see two Aroostook County legislators – Senate President Troy Jackson, and Senate Republican Leader Trey Stewart – partner up to pass legislation to explore the clean energy potential of "The County." Their efforts, and those of Governor Mills, will help protect our employers from pricing unpredictability through long-term contracts with Maine-based renewable energy.

I grew up in the county and know firsthand how economically starved my community has been for new investments, new jobs, and new taxable value. I began my career as City Manager for the Presque Isle. For many years I have heard people talk about the energy potential of the county, but few have made anywhere near the progress we have seen since the passage and implementation of LD 1710.

I applaud the PUC and DOER for seeing the potential of these projects for our energy consumers, and our economy, and for playing a role in protecting the environment. However, there is one more procedural step we must take as a state to make these projects a reality. The Maine PUC must formally and finally approve these projects by instructing our two utilities, Central Maine Power and Versant Power, to enter into contracts for 60% of the project's benefits and costs.

The Chamber has long said that we must create a positive business climate to help secure a strong state economy, and I can think of no better opportunity to do so than to approve these projects.

Sincerely,



Dana F. Connors, President/CEO