



Jared Golden
Congress of the United States
2nd District of Maine

December 5, 2019

Mr. Douglas Herling
President and Chief Executive Officer
Central Maine Power
83 Edison Drive
Augusta, ME 04336

Mr. Robert D. Kump
Deputy Chief Executive Officer and President
Avangrid, Inc.
180 Marsh Hill Road
Orange, CT 06477

Dear Mr. Herling and Mr. Kump:

Over the past several months, my office has been in touch with Central Maine Power (CMP), as well as state and federal agencies, in an effort to provide my constituents with greater input and transparency as the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) project moves through the regulatory permitting process. That is why I am grateful to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for agreeing to my request to host a public hearing this week on the potential impacts of the transmission line in western Maine.

While I intend to continue to push for regular engagement between CMP, federal regulators, and impacted communities so that Mainers can provide direct feedback during the regulatory process, I also want to bring to your attention another issue. As my constituents continue to review the costs and benefits of the project to Maine's economy and environment, I strongly encourage you to consider joining a project labor agreement (PLA) with local labor organizations in order to secure the highly-trained electricians, operating engineers, ironworkers, laborers, and other trades professionals necessary to complete the project and guarantee to the greatest extent possible that this work is carried out by Maine laborers.

PLAs have a demonstrated record of providing structure and stability to large construction projects across the country. Through these pre-hire collective bargaining agreements, open to both union and non-union companies, management is able to secure an uninterrupted labor supply, while workers are provided with good wages, benefits, and improved workplace safety. The rate of injuries on these projects has also been significantly reduced.

More importantly, a PLA could provide meaningful benefits to the people of Maine if it ensures that the thousands of new jobs supported by the NECEC are given to Maine trades professionals, to the extent that they are available and desire to work on the project. A well-designed PLA would make certain that such jobs pay a good wage with the type of healthcare and other benefits that hardworking men and women need to make a living and provide for their families.

As you may know, local labor organizations in Maine operate certified apprenticeship programs that ensure young men and women receive the training, skills, and certifications to build a successful career in the trades. However, these young people need job opportunities here in Maine. Given the scale and anticipated labor demands of this major infrastructure project, CMP will need workers to fill a variety of positions if the project is approved, from ironworkers to build transmission operation stations, to heavy equipment operators needed to safely drive and control construction equipment. In order to maximize the benefit to Maine communities, CMP should guarantee that these jobs go to Mainers. Such a guarantee would generate an immense amount of goodwill and position CMP to contribute to the long-term growth of Maine's workforce and economy by helping to employ and train the next generation of skilled trades professionals.

It is my hope that you will make a concerted effort to put Maine people first by ensuring that the new jobs created by the project are filled by a local workforce. Pursuing a PLA for the NECEC would help demonstrate to the people of Maine that CMP is committed to Maine's current and future workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared F. Golden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jared" and last name "Golden" clearly legible.

Jared Golden
Member of Congress