

## Remarks by Sandi Howard, 2019 NRCM People's Choice Award Recipient October 16, 2019

Good evening and thank you for the kind welcome,

It's an honor to accept the NRCM People's Choice Award on behalf of the Say NO to NECEC effort. Over the last 15 months, our grassroots non-profit organization has blossomed to over 7,400 members and the opposition to CMP's corridor has expanded to a majority of Mainers who wish to protect our state from needless development in western Maine's globally significant forest.

Mainers and those who visit our beautiful state wish to preserve Maine's environment, wetlands, waterways, and wildlife habitat. We know that CMP's corridor will not help our fight against climate change, and, we know that CMP's primary interest in turning Maine into an extension cord from Quebec to Massachusetts is solely for-profit reasons.

I am proud of our grassroots members and coalition of partners, like NRCM, who have joined forces to mobilize and leverage:

- 24 towns to rescind support or oppose the corridor
- Towns like Wilton & Caratunk have enacted electrical transmission moratorium ordinances.
- Our members have submitted thousands of public comments to Maine's approval agencies
- We're energized to defeat the corridor once and for all. I'm proud to tell you that our citizen's initiative to gather signatures will go live this weekend so we can leverage a referendum that essentially asks if Mainers want the PUC to revoke the permit given to CMP.

I want to thank every citizen who has become engaged in this effort. It's clear that people from every political affiliation, age, and geographical region across the state are unified to defeat the corridor, which is the largest project proposed in Maine since the development of the Maine Turnpike. Mainers will have a voice to Say NO to NECEC.

Lastly, as I learn about conservation and preservation efforts led by so many across Maine, I am inspired and hopeful that we can all remain united in a shared philosophy, that Maine's environment, waterways, wildlife habitat and way of life are worth our effort to protect and preserve.

Thank you to the Natural Resources Council of Maine for being excellent partners in the effort against the CMP corridor, and for providing support, resources, and environmental advocacy across the state and region.