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The New England Clean Energy Connect: A Good Project for Maine and a Good Project for the Planet

Much has been said lately on the subject of Hydro-Québec's ability to supply enough electricity to New England by groups that claim that the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) transmission line project would not result in any carbon reductions.

I can assure you our company has lots of energy to deliver to the U.S. Northeast. Hydro-Québec can count on more than 40 million megawatt hours of energy annually – over 3 times the energy used in Maine – to supply the Northeast in the coming years. We have plenty of power to share, but as it stands, we are using our existing lines at their full capacity when demand is high in New England. We need a new power line to get our energy to where it is most needed in the U.S. Northeast.

It's ironic that opponents are criticizing our readily available and plentiful renewable energy source, as it is this hydropower, through one single project – the NECEC – that can make the biggest dent in the region's use of climate-damaging fossil fuels. Experts testifying before Maine's Public Utilities Commission have concluded that the NECEC power line can bring down carbon emissions by over 3 million metric tons annually. That's the same climate impact as removing over 700,000 cars from the road.

This project also brings close to 260 million dollars into the hands of Mainers to help pay for thousands of heat pumps and EV charging stations as well as support low-income consumers by providing them with reduced rates. In addition, there's money for towns that can be used to help hire new staff or fund the purchase of municipal equipment.

Maine and Québec are neighbors and have a long-standing friendship. Let's have a fact-based conversation about this project and work together to make this new decade all about preserving our planet.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Martel'.

Éric Martel,
CEO, Hydro-Québec

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