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Mistake to lower Maine standards to federal level

During the recent campaign, I heard people say it takes too long to get approval of permits needed to start up or expand a business in Maine.

I think this concern should be investigated. If there are practical ways to reduce this time without reducing environmental standards, they should be implemented.

Now I am hearing something different. Some Republicans say they want to repeal any of Maine's environmental, health and safety standards that are more restrictive than federal standards.

I don't agree with this concept. I believe that Maine often has adopted stricter requirements because science indicates that federal standards aren't sufficient. So have many other states.

Why would federal standards be insufficient?

I think it is often because powerful business interests do not want regulations to interfere with marketing their products, even though they may harm us. So they heavily lobby our Congress.

They also make big campaign contributions that may in some instances (not all) corrupt elected officials who should be looking out for the health and safety of people instead of healthy profits for large business owners.

These same business interests probably lobby Maine legislators, but because most of our legislators use the Maine Clean Elections law to obtain campaign funding, instead of depending upon large private contributions, Maine has done a better job of drafting laws to protect the health and safety of our people than Congress has.

Those wealthy corporations must hate this. I like it. Our Clean Elections law enables our legislators to establish science-based laws, good for Maine people, instead of non-science-based laws, good for profits for out-of-state businesses at the expense of our environment, health and safety.

It would be a huge mistake to reduce Maine's health and safety standards to the federal level.

Elery Keene
Winslow