

**Verbal Testimony of
Linda Whitman
Long Lake Camps
Princeton, Maine**

Honorable Commission Members:

LD 72 was passed as an emergency measure to allow alewives to the upper St. Croix River Basin. The EPA issued a letter dated July 8, 2012 which stated there was no scientific data known to them that would dispute they were never native to the upper lakes. Since that time new sources of information has been found and documented:

- 1.) Evidence now proves Salmon Falls with its steep pitch and high water velocities prevented the alewives from getting into the upper lakes. In fact, the reason fishing appeared to be so great at these falls was because they could travel no further up the river.
- 2.) Maine's own IF&W reports in the 1950's show zero alewives in the upper lakes. This one fact alone should have been enough proof that alewives were not native to the upper St. Croix River Basin.
- 3.) The most damning evidence comes in the form of an experiment gone wrong in Spednic Lake. Now that the draw down myth has been debunked, the only variable that changed and could have caused the crash is the alewife introduction. Trying to feed millions of extra mouths on a limited resource can not end well.

I plead to the committee to consider this new evidence and make the correct decision to STOP the invasion of alewives. Politics aside, please do what is right for the environment and citizens of Washington County.

I give my remaining time to Steve Whitman.

*Sincerely,
Linda Whitman*