



April 27, 2015

Committee on Marine Resources
c/o Legislative Information
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 800 – An Act to Prevent Passage of Alewiecs Through the Grand Falls Dam on the St. Croix River

Dear Committee Member:

The Maine Sporting Camp Association supports LD 800 in an effort to help protect the economic viability of historic sporting camps located along the St. Croix River headwaters.

After a substantial decline of the Spednic Lake sport fishery resulted in economic hardship for local sporting camps, guides, and outfitters, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources performed a cooperative study to determine the cause of the decline. The study found that, in conjunction with a large draw-down on the lake, a large influx of alewives through the Vanceboro Dam fishway likely contributed to the decline in the Spednic Lake sport fishery.

Sport fisheries are the life-blood of Maine's sporting camp tradition. Since the mid-1800s, sporting camps have been an economic asset to Maine's most rural places, attracting tourists and sportsmen from around the country and the world. Sporting camps like those above the Grand Falls Dam have introduced businessmen, dignitaries, and even presidents to rural Maine, while at the same time hosting Maine sportsmen and their families. We must protect our sport fisheries in order to protect these small rural businesses and to keep this Maine tradition alive for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alfred Laplante