



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony in Opposition of LD 800 "An Act to Prevent Passage of Alewives through the Grand Falls Dam on the St. Croix River" April 27, 2015

Good morning, Senator Baker, Representative Kumiega, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources. My name is Matthew Dana II and I represent the Passamaquoddy Tribe. I am here this morning to testify in opposition of LD 800.

Siqonomeq is how you say Alewife in our language. The relationship with this fish is of great importance, as is the relationship with all species in our environment. It is a keystone species within our watershed, which has been absent for many years because of human action. For those of you that don't know, the St. Croix River is the home of the Passamaquoddy People. We have lived here for 12,000 years.

After a full year of listening to the science of both sides, the Passamaquoddy Joint Tribal Council agreed to support the return of the Alewife in the St. Croix watershed in 2013. I am here today to reiterate the Passamaquoddy Tribe's support of the return of the Alewives and opposition to this bill. While Tribal Administration has changed since 2013, our position has not.

This bill would only allow the alewife to enter only minimal waters of the St. Croix and not above the Grand Falls Dam. We as Native People know the effects of being confined to a small area of a once vast territory. We do not want that to continue for this native fish.

If the Guide's Association is so worried about the natural cycle of the watershed, why are they not up in arms about the illegal introduction of Large Mouth Bass, a non-native species, in the Grand Falls Flowage?

I urge you to vote "Ought not to Pass" on this bill.

Thank you for your time this morning. I am happy to answer any questions at this time.