

**Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy  
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**Testimony on LD 800: An Act to Prevent Passage of Alewives through the Grand Falls Dam on the St. Croix River**

To: Senator Linda L. Baker (chair) and Representative Walter A. Kumiega III, (chair) and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

The Friends (Quakers) Committee on Maine Public Policy (FCMPP) urges the committee to vote **OUGHT NOT TO PASS on LD 800.**

Two years ago this committee heard compelling testimony from Wabanaki chiefs and elders, world class fly fishermen, scientists, sportsmen's advocates, environmentalists and others requesting that the ancestral run up the St. Croix River be re-opened for river herring (alewives). The plan, which had virtually no cost to the state, would help to rebuild the dwindling stocks of this high-protein fish, an important base of the food chain that feeds humans and wildlife throughout the watershed ecosystem and the Gulf of Maine marine systems the river impacts. Many Passamaquoddy leaders, who are closest to the heartbeat of this river, shared their observations that eagles and marine species, as well as Passamaquoddy people dependent on the alewives for sustenance, were being adversely affected as the number of alewives had sharply decreased, most likely due to constricted runs to traditional spawning grounds. The committee was rightly persuaded to take action to open the dam and begin the restoration of the river's natural ecosystem. The day the dam was breached, Passamaquoddy tribal leaders, state, federal and Canadian officials celebrated with dance and by signing a statement of cooperation.

The Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy, a statewide network of Quakers who are focused on public policy issues in Augusta, has for several decades addressed concerns of the Wabanaki peoples in Maine. We hold a vision for cooperative and respectful tribal-state relations that respects the tribes' rights to self-determination and traditional fishing, hunting and gathering practices.

In that spirit FCMPP urges the committee to act today and keep the dam open by rejecting this short-sighted legislation. We ask you to pass on to future generations of Passamaquoddy people and others who live in the St. Croix River watershed, including freshwater and marine species, the opportunity for healthy well-being in an ecosystem that is beginning to be restored and to honor the agreement to cooperate which was signed when the dam was opened.

Thank you for your service and your consideration of our testimony.

Respectfully submitted,



Anne D. Burt

on behalf of the Friends Committee on Maine Public Policy