

Roger Wheeler
Friends of Sebago Lake
LD 204

Testimony for bill LD 204 LD, LD 300, LD 371 and LD 638

Friends of Sebago Lake (FOSL) opposes Bill LD 204, LD 300, LD 371 and LD 638 which will remove the 100 megawatt limit on hydropower projects. Hydropower dams and or the accompanying flow regulation are one of the most consequential modifications of nature that humans can impose on the planet. Not only do dams, even with fishways, prevent or hinder the access of anadromous and catadromous fish to their former historic ranges, but also, the flow regulation eliminates or reduces the higher spring flows which the fisheries have adapted their life cycles to. Hydropower flow regulation mitigates the energy of the spring freshet and freshwater and saltwater churning and upwelling energy of the coastal currents which are essential for providing nutrients to the foundational phytoplankton of the marine food chain. The Canadian mega dams have weakened the Labrador current. The Gulf of Maine has experienced an over 60 percent drop in diatom populations. Coincidence, I think not. In the past, FOSL has requested of government hydro regulating agencies with jurisdiction over the Presumpscot River that before management rules are enacted for proper scientific studies to be completed on the full impacts of the dams and flow regulation on Sebago Lake and marine ecosystems. These requests were always ignored. This is strange due to the value of the lobster and fishing industry. Again, I request that full proper and without influence from hydropower interests, studies be undertaken on the full impacts of these dams and flow regulation in Maine and Canada especially if existing laws are being changed to increase hydropower production.