

Carrie Byron
Penobscot
LD 531

Carrie J. Byron, Ph.D.
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Environment and Natural Resources Committee
LD531

I support the bill LD531 An Act Regarding Dam Ownership.

I am a waterfront home owner on Toddy Pond and am trained as an ecologist - conducting research in aquatic and marine ecosystems. I have two motivations for maintaining relative water levels in Toddy Pond. The first is to maintain our way of life and enjoyment in recreating on the beautiful Toddy Pond as a waterfront home owner. The second motivation stems from my professional expertise on habitat and wildlife preservation. A significant reduction in water from removing or opening up the Toddy Pond Dam would result in loss of waterfront property, being replaced by soft mud that would not be traversable thereby cutting off our access to the lake. More importantly, significant water level reduction would dramatically alter riparian habitat, alter thermal niches for fish in the water column, and ultimately cause direct harm to terrestrial (i.e. birds, riparian mammals) and aquatic wildlife. Therefore, I support maintaining water levels in Toddy Pond.

There are multiple pathways in which water levels might be maintained in Toddy Pond. The bill presented here is one pathway that promotes community voice and values in maintaining habitat, wildlife, recreation, and property values in Toddy Pond, and neighboring lakes.

I support LD531.

Sincerely,
Carrie J. Byron, Ph.D.