

Marybeth Allen  
213 Long Point Way, Orland, ME 04472

LD 531: Dam Ownership

Sponsored by: Nina Milliken D-Blue Hill

Committee: Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

My name is Marybeth Allen, and I am writing to you **IN SUPPORT OF LD 531**.

LD 531 will enable the community to take control of the dams that impound the waters of Alamoosic Lake and Toddy Pond and I want to strongly encourage the committee to vote in its favor. Decades ago, these dams were built to ensure a water supply for a paper mill in Bucksport, however the community embraced them and made them our own! Indeed, we, the people, have outlived the paper mill, and these bodies of water have taken on many newer purposes. They are now a vital economic, habitat, and recreational resource for the Towns of Orland, Surry, Penobscot, and Blue Hill and all of Hancock County. Other supporters of LD 531, I'm sure, will detail and spell out the many different ways these lakes support the local and state economy, as boaters and vacationers come from all over the state to enjoy them. The newly reconstructed boat ramp on Toddy Pond is the busiest in Hancock Co. In addition, the lakes support a wide variety of wildlife, give the related towns increased tax revenues, and are a source of water for local Fire Departments.

This bill will be our best hope of gaining local control of these dams that the current owners want to abandon. As I understand it, these two dams are the first such dams that "industrial owners seek to abandon", however I doubt they will be the last. This bill can be a model and a pathway for other communities who will grapple with dam abandonment in the future.

Finally, I sincerely hope that the Committee and whole legislature will support our local grass roots efforts to come together and take on the challenge of finding local solutions to local problems.

Thank you.

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