

Jeana & Dana Roth
Save Our Ponds (Penobscot, ME)
LD 531

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LD 531: Dam Ownership
Sponsored by: Nina Milliken D-Blue Hill
Committee: Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
In Favor of the Bill

Our names are Dana & Jeana Roth and we wish to strongly endorse passage of LD 531.

For over one hundred years Toddy Pond and Alamoosook Lake have provided superb wildlife habitat, bountiful recreational opportunities and an economic powerhouse for the towns of Blue Hill, Orland, Penobscot and Surry. Originally conceived as a water source for the paper mill in

Bucksport, the lakes have outlived that paper mill and is now a vital resource for our communities and region.

The lakes are home to numerous fish species, loons, eagles, cormorants as well as beavers, fox, deer and other animals. For over one hundred years this wildlife has relied on the waters of Toddy Pond and Alamoosook Lake to live and raise their young. Would such wildlife adapt to a new environment without the pond? No doubt, but this body of water has become as much a part of the local environment as Great Pond Mountain or Blue Hill. Allowing it to disappear would be a truly cataclysmic change in the local environment and economy.

The boat launch on Toddy, located on Route 1 in Orland is one of the busiest in Hancock County. Last year our Courtesy Boat Inspection program inspected over 1000 boats and we know that's only a percentage of all boats launched and recovered at the Toddy and

Alamoosook boat landing. Boaters come to the two lakes, not only from the adjacent towns, but from all over Maine. Vacationers come from states beyond Maine and New England. Numerous

fishing derbies are held on Toddy, both summer and winter providing much appreciated wholesome and family friendly recreational opportunities. Toddy Pond and Alamoosook are a much beloved 4 season recreational resource for the Hancock County region and indeed the entire state of Maine.

Toddy Pond and Alamoosook serve as a powerful economic engine for the region as well.

Property tax support by the lakefront property owners significantly impacts the tax revenues for

all four towns adjacent to the lakes. The economic impact on local businesses is immense.

The TPA Outreach Committee has, using some of the same methods as the University of Maine

did when they looked at the impact of Maine lakes on the local economy, estimate that the net

economic benefit to the towns, and the state, is on the order of tens of millions of dollars

annually. The loss of such a potent economic engine would be devastating to the towns of Blue

Hill, Orland, Penobscot and Surry. Additionally, the waters of both Alamoosook Lake and Toddy

Pond are vital resources for our local Fire Departments. Without these waters, safety in all four

towns would be impacted.

Finally, this is a grassroots effort, by the people and towns most affected by the status

of the
dams on Toddy Pond and Alamoosook Lake to find local solutions to a problem
which is not
unique to these ponds/lakes and dams. All across Maine there are aging dams that,
having
outlived their original purpose, continue to bring significant benefit to the people
living on the
waters they impound, and the towns adjoining those water bodies. The State of Maine
should
embrace and encourage efforts such as this to solve local problems at the local level.
This can-
do attitude and effort reflects all of what's best about our state and its people, and we
encourage the legislature to support this bill.
Thank you.
Respectfully
Dana & Jeana Roth