

To: Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and the members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

I am Joseph Scirica a resident of Penobscot, ME. I was in your committee room this morning to express my support for LD 531. However, I changed my mind about testifying in person, as my neighbors said what I wanted to say, better than I could.

It appears no Town, Agency, Corporation, or Non-profit will rescue our lakes. A Quasi-Governmental Agency seems to be our best option available.

My fellow Toddy Pond Residents and myself, (as well as our counterparts on Alamoosook), benefit the most from the damned lakes and it is right and fair that we bear our share for the upkeep of the dams. However, our neighbors benefit recreationally, and economically as well and should pay their fair share. Toddy Pond Association's invasive plant courtesy boat inspections recorded over a thousand boat launches which far exceeds the number of homes on the lake. All those who enjoy the lakes should pay their share.

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Beyond LD 531, what lesson have we learned: When the nearing bankruptcy, Verso sold the Mill to AIM, it would have been the right thing to do not to remove the Assets but abandon the Liabilities to the citizens and taxpayers of Maine.

We have yet to find out how much the dams will require in repair. We likely will require help paying for the neglected upkeep of the dams. These lakes are modest homes and camps rather than million-dollar compounds. If the waterfront home owners are levied excessively, that would price Mainers out of the lake real estate and 'gasp' attract people 'from away'.

When debtors attempt to keep assets away from creditors by changing title to the asset the asset is subject to clawback. While the sale of the Bucksport Mill seems legitimate, the separation and abandonment of liabilities does not appear to be keeping with Maine values. Perhaps this would be an area for future legislation. In addition, am I the only person who feels even the name "American Iron & Metal" (AIM) while a multi-national corporation does not speak to what is a family-owned, company founded and headquartered in Montreal, Quebec