

April 1, 2025

Re: LD 531 Dam Ownership
Sponsored by: Nina Milliken D-Blue Hill
Committee: Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

My name is Jeffrey Hagen and I am writing to you **IN SUPPORT OF LD 531.**

LD 531 will enable the community to take control of the dams that impact the waters of Alamoosic Lake and Toddy Pond. I want to strongly encourage the committee to vote in its favor. 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! These bodies of water have taken on many newer purposes and transformed themselves into a vital environmental haven, economic stimulus and recreational resource for the Towns of Orland, Surry, Penobscot, Blue Hill and all the guest that frequent Hancock County.

The environmental and economic impact to the region if the dams are removed is beyond calculation. The only solution is to help us find a local solution through the support of Bill LD 531.

This bill is our best hope of gaining local control of these dams that the current owners have poorly maintained and want to abandon. This bill can help to set a precedent and a pathway for other communities who will fall victim to poor management, misuse and abandonment.

I respectfully request the Committee and whole legislature will support our local efforts to come together and take on the challenge of finding local solutions to local problems.

Sincerely;



Jeffrey G. Hagen
326 West Toddy Lane
Blue Hill, ME