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April 4, 2025

Dear Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and Distinguished Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing to express Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce's staunch support for LD 1210, An Act To Requiring Renewable Power Generation by Hydropower Projects.

Simply stated, dams check off two particularly important boxes benefiting both the Maine's economy and the environment. Hydropower projects aid the state of Maine in achieving its climate action goals and is a renewable resource, while also benefiting the economy. Mid-Maine Chamber knows the exact economic benefit of the Kennebec River dams to the area's economy because it commissioned an *Economic and Fiscal Impact Analysis* in September of 2022 prepared by Camoin Associates that can be found here:

<https://www.midmainechamber.com/images/PDFs/Final-Report-Kennebec-Dams-Economic-and-Fiscal-Impact-Mid-Maine-Chamber-of-Commerce.pdf>

Mid-Maine Chamber believes in the DEP should take the economic impact of not providing a water certification thus leading to a denial in dam relicensing when arriving at its decision. In particular, the Shawmut dam, if decommissioned, would have a devastating impact on SAPPI's paper Mill which employs over 800 people plus hundreds of contractors and is a major driver of economic activity in Somerset County and the surrounding communities of northern Kennebec County.

It should also be noted that Mid-Maine Chamber is a huge fan of fish and is the only chamber in the State with a fishing committee, its own fishing Web site and associated Facebook page: www.midmainebass.com. Our efforts have actually won us the Governor's Marketing & Promotion Award 2017 for our efforts to attract a national spotlight through Major League Fishing's Summit Cup Challenges (they came twice!) aired on Outdoor Channel and CBS. Mid-Maine Chamber is pro-fish and feels that reasonable accommodations can be made to achieve both goals of fish migration as well as helping business/industry while generating carbon-free energy.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our support of LD 1210. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kimberly N. Lindlof'.

Kimberly N. Lindlof
President & CEO

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