Jean Brewer Camden LD 430

Numerous members of communities in Maine will be subject to unbearable tax burdens in light of the new administration in Washington with the lack of grant funding for dam removal and the phenomenal cost involved. Equally concerning is the dangerous disturbance of existing ecosystems and sediment removal. Often times sediment flows into harbors that cause new problems for communities, and less fortunate communities are tempted to receive toxic sediment for a financial trade off, or the sediment is buried in locations where it seeps into ground water, negatively affecting wells. This is not good environmental practice. We are in a precarious place in time where removal of dams could not only significantly impact tax burdens, and contribute to moving toxic material from one place to another, but also create massive erosion and mudslides like we have seen in other states. Maine has good bedrock that dams are often built on for good reason. Why should we subject ourselves to greater risks? Not all dams are considered equal. Dams can act as speed bumps in rivers and streams to slow down the impact in heavy rain events. There are some that have immense Historic Value like the Montgomery Dam in Camden that was restored by the famous Olmsted Brothers firm and Mary Louise Curtis Bok, Camden's greatest benefactor, who is also responsible for Historic Camden Harbor Park, the Village Green, the Camden Amphitheater, the Camden Library, and funding numerous other wonderful projects across the United States. Do we throw away a portion of Camden's legacy for no good reason? After a great deal of research, it has been determined that there is no historical evidence that the Megunticook Class B stream that is a mere 3.5 miles long has no historical evidence of salmon, alewife's, or other fish runs, yet certain current organizations and consulting firms push to get federal grant funding, instead of listening to community members and stakeholders who own property abutting the stream, and own private property with both land and water rights. Some own part of the impoundments and are pressured publicly, as if they committed a crime by having property near dams. The Montgomery Dam's spillway was extended and the dam raised in order to enhance the beauty of the magnificent waterfalls of Camden's scenic harbor. This contributes to the economic vitality in Camden. The slope up the bedrock is not conducive to fish runs and never was. It is a sad experience to watch the over reach of environmentalists at the expense of local property owners with businesses above the dam and scenic views of the waterfalls and harbor being subject to harassment in certain dam removal projects like this. Some projects are being pushed that cause more harm than good by ignoring the livelihoods of thriving small businesses and community members when placed in the wrong communities for the wrong reasons. I have supported environmental causes my entire adult life, but over reach of this kind has caused me to question how expert these project designers are, and what do they really care about, making money for themselves and their organizations? Who is making the money on dam removal at whose expense? For these and other reasons I support the moratorium on dam removal. Thank you!