

Rosanna Woodruff
Augusta
LD 430

Dear Legislators Elected to Represent the Populous,

I don't want this bill to pass, because I want to preserve the peoples' right to hope and fight for rivers.

If a river, impounded with perpetual certainty, is so vital to a papermill, then papermills can collaborate with the incredible engineers in the UMaine system to develop new methods to cool their turbines and employ their locales.

If a boater, speeding across the surface of a reservoir, cannot imagine alternate forms of recreation and valuable waterfront property, then I will entreat them to invest early along the recovering shores of the Kennebec River.

If a rooftop, adorned with a solar array, could pick up some slack of a decommissioned hydropower plant, then so it shall, until innovations can circumvent solar's reliance on harmful mining practices (I haven't heard of any impending moratoriums on energy research at time of writing).

I live by the Kennebec and in last summer's heat I tried to swim in it, despite the risk of a dangerous current from a dam opening upriver, as well as the law. Aquatic vegetation grew thick and the bed was mucky. The water was hot and stagnant. Figuring much of this could be balanced if the river could flow at its natural rate, I wondered, what could be more bleak?

It was humiliating to look out my window and see this immense god-given gift of a river every day and not be able to swim when it was hot; when my paychecks tired of funding AC and cold showers. It was unfair to be denied the decency of washing the skunk spray off my dog without the additional odor of decomposing water plants; fishing when I was broke or just felt like it, for whatever fish I might find without unbridled gushes of cool, aerated water atop bureaucratic fish ladders coming to serve as proclaimed environmental compromise.

So legislators, I hereby remind you that perpetuating an era of dams with this moratorium is a Dr. Seuss dystopia that I beseech you to avoid, as dreaming of dam-destined dynamite is a rightful glimmer of hope for the working-class majority in a society bound to expanding complexity, and top-heavy power distributions.

Your Fellow Earth-Dweller,

Rosanna Woodruff