

Sean Hoskins  
Limington  
LD 430

Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Sean Hoskins. I am a resident of Limington in York County, and I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of An Act to Impose Moratoria on Hydropower Dam Removal and on Water Release from Nonhydropower Dams and to Make Other Changes to the Laws Regulating Such Dams (LD 430).

LD 430 begins by stating a primary reason to support this emergency moratoria on dam removal is that “hydropower dams on Maine rivers generate significant quantities of renewable energy”. Although it is true that 30% of Maine’s generated electricity comes from hydropower, 90% of this power comes from only half of the dams. The majority of hydropower dams in Maine produce under 10 MW of electricity and of these dams, the average output is under 5 MW. The removal of any one of these dams or collection of them is not a significant impact to Maine’s collective electricity portfolio and therefore this statement does not provide any rationale to support this bill.

For at least the last 16 years, the American Society of Civil Engineers has graded the state of Maine’s dams as a D+. That’s 16 years of no improvement. More concerning is that of the 316 dams that had their condition assessed in the 2024 report, only 53% were rated as satisfactory. The estimated cost of repairing or rehabilitating dams was \$920 million. We should be looking to expedite dam removal at certain sites to reduce repair costs and increase public safety, not introduce legislation to slow the process down.

No one comes to Maine hoping to see old, rundown dams. They come to see the beauty that our state has to offer and dam removal will only add to that. I urge this committee to vote against this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.