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LD 430

LD 212 is redundant and offers no new opportunity. In 2015 the Governor's Energy Office released a study on the possibility of improving existing dams for hydroelectric generation. Those evaluations still apply. Also, state and federal regulations already enforce exploring alternative ownership options.

LD 430 is also redundant, but first, the original LD summary calls the bill an "emergency bill" but nowhere describes the emergency. The bill also seems to address removal of dams on the Kennebec river that support Sappi paper mill. Although Sappi has unique issues with the Shawmut dam removal, the bill applies to all hydroelectric and non-hydroelectric dams in Maine, many of which already follow the intention of the bill. A moratorium on dam removal unnecessarily delays and jeopardizes projects already in progress. One example is the Mousam River dams owned by Kennebunk Light and Power which has already followed the intentions of the bill, and is engaged in seeking federal funding for the next steps. This bill will unnecessarily delay that project.