

Dear Members of the Maine State Legislature,

LD 1382: An Act Regarding Dam Repair

Sponsored by: Representative Nina Milliken (Blue Hill)

Co-sponsored by: Representative Steven Bishop (Bucksport)

Senator Nicole Grohoski (Hancock)

Senator David Hagan (Penobscot)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

I support the above-mentioned piece of legislation. As a property owner on Toddy Pond, Penobscot Maine, I am very familiar with the challenges many communities and lake associations face in maintaining dams which in many cases are over 100 years old. Preservation of these dams and the bodies of water they impound helps to protect wildlife, recreation, safe drinking water for neighboring wells, water for fire suppression and area economic benefits. Recent studies have indicated Toddy Pond and adjacent Alamoosook Lake contribute over \$100,000,000 in economic benefit that includes lost tax dollars for surrounding towns. This would all be lost if the dams were gone.

Despite these valuable benefits, the cost of maintaining, repairing and/or improving these impoundments is often beyond the reach of local municipalities, lake associations and lakefront owners. This legislation would facilitate the local ownership and maintenance of these structures so vital to our communities. Additionally, it would enhance public safety by facilitating repair and maintenance of “high risk” dams such as the ones on Toddy Pond and Alamoosook Lake.

By creating a fund which would provide loans to the communities and organizations owning and maintaining these dams, this legislation would provide all of the benefits listed above in a way which minimizes the cost to the States infrastructure costs.

For these reasons, I strongly support this legislation.

Respectfully

Jeff Roth

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