

Lisa Deweese
Alamoosook Lake Association
LD 1382

Testimony in Support of LD1382 – An Act to Establish a Revolving Fund for Dam Maintenance

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of LD1382, which would establish a revolving fund dedicated to the maintenance of Maine's dams. As someone who has spent a lifetime on the shores of Alamoosook Lake in Orland, I can attest to the critical importance of maintaining our dam—not only for ecological balance, but for the preservation of a unique way of life that has defined our town for generations.

For decades, families in Orland and beyond have gathered at this lake. Children learn to swim here, generations of Mainers have fished off its docks, and community members come together for events that strengthen the bonds of our small town. The dam helps ensure stable water levels that make all of this possible. Without it, the lake as we know it—and the role it plays in our lives—would be lost.

Beyond recreation and heritage, the lake supports vital ecological functions. It has become a nesting site for several species of waterfowl, including the iconic loon. Most critically, it plays an essential role in the life cycle of alewives, a migratory fish species that depends on consistent lake access for spawning. Removal or neglect of the dam would severely disrupt this delicate cycle and cause irreversible harm to native fish populations and the broader ecosystem.

Funding for dam maintenance is not just a matter of infrastructure—it is a matter of preserving Maine's natural, cultural, and community heritage. I urge you to support LD1382 so that communities like ours can continue to protect and enjoy these invaluable resources for generations to come.

Sincerely,
Lisa Deweese
President, Alamoosook Lake Association
Orland, Maine