

Philip Roberts
Surry
LD 1382

Testimony in Support of Establishing a Statewide Revolving Fund for Lake Dam
Repairs LD1382

Presented to the [Criminal Justice and Public Safety]

By Philip A. Roberts

Date: April 30, 2025

Chair, and distinguished members of the committee:

My name is Philip A. Roberts, I am a resident of Surry, Maine. I want to voice my strong support for the establishment of a revolving fund dedicated to the repair and rehabilitation of lake dams across the State of Maine.

Dams play a critical role in preserving Maine's environmental heritage, public safety, and recreational economy. Many of our lakes—iconic to our state's natural identity—depend on dams for maintaining water levels that support ecosystems, fisheries, property values, and local tourism. However, many of these dams are aging, structurally compromised, and under increasing strain from extreme weather events brought on by climate change.

Unfortunately, municipalities, lake associations, and private dam owners often lack the financial resources necessary to carry out the extensive repairs or upgrades needed to bring these structures into compliance with safety standards. Without timely intervention, dam failures could pose serious risks to downstream communities, wildlife habitats, and drinking water supplies. These risks come at far greater costs—both economic and environmental—than proactive maintenance.

A state-administered revolving loan fund would provide a sustainable, long-term mechanism to support dam owners and stakeholders in making necessary repairs. By offering low- or no-interest loans with flexible repayment terms, the fund would incentivize early action, distribute the financial burden fairly, and preserve public and private infrastructure for generations to come.

Moreover, this fund aligns with Maine's broader commitment to environmental stewardship and climate resilience. The proactive maintenance of our lake dams will ensure stable water levels, preserve biodiversity, and sustain the recreational opportunities that fuel our local economies and make Maine a destination for residents and visitors alike.

I respectfully urge the committee to advance this initiative and secure the resources necessary to protect our lakes, our communities, and our future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
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