



To: Members of the Maine State Legislature  
From: Toddy Pond Association Board of Directors  
Subject: In Support of LD 1382: An Act Regarding Dam Repair  
Sponsors: Rep. Nina Millikin/Rep Steven Bishop  
Sen. Nicole Grohoski/David Haggan  
Committee: Criminal Justice and Public Safety  
Date: April 29, 2025

The Board of Directors support the passage of legislation LD 1382, an Act regarding dam repair. Having been involved in the effort to find a solution to the ownership question surrounding the dam on Toddy Pond, this is a subject the Toddy Pond Association BOD are passionate about.

Maine has many older dams which do not serve the same commercial purpose that led to their being built. Indeed, many of the corporate entities that owned and managed these structures are either no longer in business or have no further need for these dams and the bodies of water they impound. Removing dams or not investing in repairs and maintenance would have a catastrophic effect on the local communities.

The dam which impounds Toddy Pond is an excellent example of this. In the more than 100 years since it was built and Toddy Pond's 8 mile lake filled, the community on the lake, the 4 towns that have shoreline on the lake and Hancock County have come to depend on the pond. Economically, the pond adds 10 of millions of dollars to the local economy. Through property values/taxes, local businesses, private enterprises such as AirBNB, the pond serves as an economic engine for the region. Recreationally the pond offers superb fishing and other waterborne activities which are enjoyed, not just by locals, but from a population that encompasses all of Maine and beyond. The pond ensures a guaranteed water supply for the local fire departments that use it with regularity to fight fires. Finally, the pond serves as an excellent habitat for multiple species of fish, birds and other wildlife.

This bill would allow local towns and lake associations in having the financial wherewithal to maintain, repair and improve the dams in their jurisdiction. If public safety is paramount, investing in maintenance and repairs of high hazard dams is required and should be considered as infrastructure improvements as are bridges and highways. Having a source of loans for each municipality or other organization owning and maintaining a dam would be an excellent investment and value for the citizens of the state of Maine.

The TPA Board therefore wholeheartedly supports this bill and advocates for its prompt passage.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We of course are happy to answer any questions you might have.

Respectfully,

The Board of Directors  
Toddy Pond Association  
PO Box 645  
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Marc Restuccia  
Orland  
LD 1382

From the TPA Board of Directors