

Philip Roberts
Surry
LD 1848

Testimony in Support of LD 1848 - An Act to Implement Recommendations for Improved Dam Safety

Submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

By: Philip Roberts Surry, Maine

May 4, 2025

Representative Rock and distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.k

My name is Philip Roberts, and I am writing in strong support of LD 1848— An Act to Implement Recommendations for Improved Dam Safety. I thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective.

Maine’s dams serve a variety of critical functions—from providing hydropower and recreation to supporting water management and habitat stability. However, many of these dams are aging, and as climate change increases the frequency and severity of storms, our infrastructure must be prepared to meet growing risks. The safety of our communities, ecosystems, and local economies depends on proactive and well-informed dam management.

This bill takes an important step by implementing recommendations that will:
Improve inspection and maintenance protocols, ensuring regular evaluations of structural integrity;

Enhance emergency action planning, which is vital for public safety in the event of dam failure;

Strengthen coordination between state agencies and dam owners, enabling faster, data-driven decision-making; and

Prioritize risk-based approaches, focusing resources on the most vulnerable and high-impact structures.

These are sensible, cost-effective strategies that address longstanding gaps in our dam safety program. Investing in prevention now will save lives, protect property, and reduce the financial and environmental cost of potential disasters in the future. I respectfully urge this Committee to support LD 1848 and help make Maine a leader in dam safety and climate resilience.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Philip Roberts, 8 Hewey Lane, Surry Maine