

Kathleen McGee
Bowdoinham
LD 2187

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of the Joint Standing
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

a

My name is Kathleen McGee testifying in support of LD 2187 IF the reclassification
upgrade amendment of the upper lower Androscoggin River is included.

I have been a water quality monitor for decades and am well acquainted with the
purpose of the Clean Water Act, water quality and re-class statutes in Maine. And it
has been my hope, for all these years, that the Andro would stop being the red-headed
step child of the rivers in Maine. It is time to reclassify this stretch of the
Androscoggin River from C to B. It meets the standards to do so. A major precept of
the Clean Water Act has always been to aspire to the highest level of classification for
any water body. If the water body is AT the next level of classification you MUST
reclassify TO that next level. There is no caveat that suggests 1) it has to be 24/7 and
2) maybe industry or circumstance on the river/body of water might bring it back
down to a C. The standards have been met for B on this stretch of the Andro. You
MUST reclassify it to satisfy the letter and intent of the law. Further, it is an
economically sound thing to do and because there is no backsliding once reclassified,
towns and business and neighborhoods all along the river will benefit from the
reclassification.