

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

Preserving the real and measurable water quality improvements on the Androscoggin River between the Worumbo and Gulf Island Pond dams is critical for both our environment and our local economy. An amendment to LD 2187 that locks in the river's existing Class B conditions through a formal classification upgrade will ensure that these hard-won gains are protected for the future.

Both state and federal laws are clear that we must not allow backsliding in water quality standards. Updating the river's classification to reflect its actual, current conditions is a commonsense and legally sound way to uphold that principle. Doing so supports recreation, tourism, fisheries, and community pride, while reinforcing Maine's longstanding commitment to clean water.

Please support an amendment to LD 2187 that secures these protections.

Thank you for your consideration.