

Rachel Stansberry
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LD 2187

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

I am writing in support of LD 2187 with the caveat that a classification upgrade amendment be added covering the upper lower Androscoggin River between Worumbo dam in Lisbon Falls and Gulf Island Pond dam in Auburn. The intensive sampling last summer by Friends of Merrymeeting Bay at ten sites in this section of river showed easy Class B compliance 100% of the time. With this information available to us, it only makes sense to support amendment language locking in the improved water quality. I agree with the all the recommendations made by the Friends of Merrymeeting Bay.

Actual Class B water quality conditions have been met in the Androscoggin below GIP for years, and Maine statute requires that they be upgraded and maintained. The Clean Water Act has anti degradation standards that prohibit backsliding in water quality. This amendment protects our success. Maine prides itself on its environment and promotes itself as American's Vacation land. A clean river is paramount to this image and there are well-documented economic, ecological and quality of life

benefits. Finally, all of the aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species that inhabit or utilize the river corridor are not able to submit written testimony, but their lives depend on the actions of our species.

Thank you for your service to the people of Maine and your attention to this matter.