



February 24, 2026

Testimony in support of LD 2187: “An Act to Update Certain Water Quality Standards and to Reclassify Certain Waters of the State”

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

Locking in actual existing improved water quality on the Androscoggin River between Worumbo and Gulf Island Pond dams will help the local economy and the environment. Please support LD 2187, including an amendment locking in existing Class B conditions through a classification upgrade for this section of river. Both federal and state laws prohibit backsliding in water quality. Ensuring classifications reflect actual conditions is how this is done. In addition, this section of river is critical habitat for the Atlantic salmon. For cool water species like salmon, there is a considerable difference between minimum DO levels of 5ppm in Class C and 7ppm in Class B.

Thank you for your service and your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Thornton
Director of Institutional Engagement
Endangered Species Coalition

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