

February 24th, 2026

Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

I am writing to express my strong support for LD 2187, with the proposed amendment to reclassify the Lower Androscoggin River from Worumbo Dam to Gulf Island Pond Dam from Class C to Class B.

I have lived along this river all my life, and I have witnessed remarkable changes over the years. Where the river once showed the scars of heavy industrial use, I have seen the steady return of wildlife—both flora and fauna. Fish populations have improved, birds and other wildlife have come back in increasing numbers, and the wild rice has reclaimed stretches of shoreline. These changes are not abstract to me; they are personal and visible evidence of what thoughtful environmental stewardship can accomplish.

The stretch between the Worumbo Dam in Lisbon Falls and the Gulf Island Pond Dam represents a vital corridor for recreation, habitat, and community pride. Upgrading this segment from Class C to Class B would recognize the river's recovery and ensure continued progress.

A small measure of additional protection today will create enormous and lasting benefits for all living creatures who depend on this river—now and for generations to come. Reclassifying this segment is a practical, forward-looking step that aligns Maine's water quality standards with the river's current condition and our shared responsibility to protect it.

I respectfully urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 2187 with the amendment to reclassify this portion of the Lower Androscoggin River to Class B.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to the people of Maine.

Sincerely,

Sarah Cowperthwaite

Brunswick

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LD 2187

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Sarah Cowperthwaite
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