

February 25, 2026

Greetings Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and members of the Environment, and Natural Resource Committee,

I am sending you my written testimony in support of LD 2187 An Amendment to upgrade the upper lower Androscoggin from Worumbo Dam to Gulf Island Dam. Its Public Hearing will take place on Wednesday, March 4.

This magnificent Maine River's name honors members of the Abenaki tribe and their way of life. They were dependent on this river's abundant life. A translation of its name meant "A river of rock shelters" and "a place to smoke fish/meat at the falls." For them, this River was Life.

And because this river was so important to the health of the wildlife they were dependent on for their survival, they cared for this river and maintained its pristine beauty and well being. They understood the complexity of ecosystems, that all life in and around the river is connected.

Today, we have the opportunity to help return this great river back to its pristine state. And in doing so, we will continue to support the health and well being of all our terrestrial and avian wildlife. ....and support all that a pristine river is able to offer us.

For our Native Peoples, the River was Life, and for those of us present today, may our generation be remembered by its efforts to hand down a pristine river to those who come after us

Respectfully submitted,  
Geri Vistein  
Carnivore Conservation Biologist  
Morrill, Maine.