



Mike Tipping  
Senator, District 8

**THE MAINE SENATE**  
131st Legislature

3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Thank you Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and members of the Committee On Energy, Utilities and Technology. I am Senator Mike Tipping and I'm proud to represent Senate District 8, including the town of Lincoln. I'm proud to introduce this bill as a measure necessary to assist a community in the redevelopment of a former mill site.

As former DECD Commissioner Steve Levesque who has worked with Lincoln on this matter, will testify, a federal funding agency has recommended the formation of a Mill Facilities District authorized by the Maine Legislature to support revenue bond financing of a new wastewater treatment plant and other infrastructure facilities in order to allow new economic development.

The Town of Lincoln deserves every opportunity to strive for and achieve economic redevelopment of a mill that once powered the local economy. After being idle for many years, the Town has acquired the mill site out of bankruptcy, sought Brownfields funds for cleanup of the site, will demolish and remove the residuals of blighted facilities on the campus, and has several active proposals for redevelopment of leased areas on the locally owned mill campus.

In addition to all of that effort, the Town will need a new facility to treat wastewater from new uses to a level of water quality that can then assimilate with new uses and recreation on the Penobscot River. I grew up on the shore of the Stillwater Branch, downstream from this site am proud to also represent the University of Maine in Orono. This project shows the power and the promise of combining the innovation of our flagship university with the workforce and resources of local communities. The intent of this legislation is to pave the way for that partnership. It will allow us to treat and manage the wastewaters from innovative new industries that are finding innovative new ways to re-use wood residuals from the North Maine Woods.

I ask the committee to join us in supporting this effort by passing this bill.

Thank you.

*Chair, Labor and Housing Committee*

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