



Franklin County, Maine

March 12, 2025

Good afternoon, Senator Ross, Representative Pluecker and Members of the Committee,

My name is Fenwick Fowler, I am a County Commissioner from Franklin County. I am here to testify in favor of LD 758, and request for a geomorphic study of the Sandy River watershed.

The Sandy River has continually flooded on a regular basis for centuries. The last few years the river has caused increasing damage. The most recent flood of December 2023 caused nearly 9 million dollars of private and public damage as requested of FEMA.

We believe that if we access geomorphic data in Franklin County, we could better anticipate the areas we need to address in preparation for the next event. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

We are increasingly concerned about the impact of flooding relative to the loss of good agricultural land. We are also concerned about the risk to the public water supply serving four communities. The Aquifer to supply public water to these towns sits under the Sandy River.

We hope you will assist Franklin County in providing us the tools to best plan our future relative to the flooding of the Sandy River.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Fenwick L. Fowler
Franklin County Commissioner

140 Main Street, Suite 3, Farmington, Maine 04938. (207) 778-6614

Tom Saviello
District #1

Fen Fowler
District #2

Tom Skolfield
District #3

Bob Carlton
District #4

Jeff Gilbert
District #5

Amy Bernard
County Administrator
abernard@franklincountymaine.gov