



Joseph E. Martin
Senator, District 19

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
LD 371, An Act to Expand Hydroelectric Development by Removing the
100- megawatt Cap
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Good afternoon, Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. I am Joe Martin and I proudly represent the citizens of Senate District 19, which includes much of Northern Oxford County and communities in Franklin County. I am here to present LD 371, "An Act to Expand Hydroelectric Development by Removing the 100- megawatt Cap."

Expanding Maine's Hydropower: A Common-Sense Energy Solution

Maine has long benefited from its abundant natural resources, with hydroelectric power providing clean, reliable energy for our communities. However, an outdated 100-megawatt cap restricts the full potential of our hydroelectric facilities, limiting energy production, economic growth, and our ability to achieve energy independence.

By repealing this cap, we open the door for greater energy generation at existing facilities like Harris Station and Wyman Dam—both already exceeding 100 MW—and future projects that can help stabilize Maine's energy grid. This change will:

- **Increase Renewable Energy Production:** Hydropower is Maine's most consistent renewable energy source, producing power regardless of weather conditions. Allowing full utilization of our existing hydro capacity strengthens our energy security.
- **Lower Energy Costs for Mainers:** More hydropower means more locally generated electricity, reducing dependence on costly out-of-state energy imports.
- **Boost Economic Growth:** Hydroelectric projects create jobs in construction, maintenance, and infrastructure development while generating revenue for local communities.
- **Protect the Environment:** Modern hydro facilities incorporate advanced fish passage and ecological protections, ensuring responsible development aligned with environmental standards.

This is a win-win for Maine—enhancing energy reliability, affordability, and sustainability. Let's remove the unnecessary cap and power Maine's future with our own natural resources!