



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Thank you Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of the Environmental and natural resources committee.

I am Representative Steve Bishop. I represent District 17.

To best explain the importance of this proposed bill, let me give you some brief history. In 2014 the Bucksport Paper mill closed. The Bucksport mill owned more than just the Mill. It owned a landfill, water rights, and a water transport pipeline, and it owned dams.

A multinational cooperation bought the mill, took it down, and scrapped it. The company took their money, and now 11 years after the closing of the mill, this cooperation wants to leave the tax payers of the region with their liability!

The dams we are focusing on today are the dams that contain the waterbodies of Allamoosic and Toddy Pond. These water bodies house several camps, homes, a fish hatchery, boat landings, a hotel and restaurant on its shores. These water bodies are vital to the economic well-being of my district.

This bill before you has been crafted after town meetings that have gleaned public input. The community in my district has come together over this issue, for the simple reason that we want the water to stay. It's sad that this is happening to us. Big corporate shows up, takes our most profitable asset and leaves us with unmaintained liabilities. And my community bands together to try to solve the problem. This bill. LD 534... Provides an option for us to solve it. This allows the 4 communities affected by this tragedy to work together to share the cost. The option for a quasi-municipal entity appears to be the most reasonable, actionable and possible option to save these water bodies.



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The testimony you are about to here will likely include many facts and figures. Maybe some statistics. As you listen to all this keep in mind that the team of local people behind me are on the defensive for our home. All the work that has been done to get us to here is necessary just to maintain our region. Please help us.

Thank you.