

Marlo J. DiBiase

41 Mushrall Lane
Orland, ME 04472
dibiasemarlo@yahoo.com

Subject: LD 531:DAM OWNERSHIP-Sponsored by
Nina Miliken D-Blue Hill

Committee: Committee on Environment and
Natural Resources

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My name is Marlo DiBiase, and I am here to support the passage of LD 531. I represent the Alamoosook Lake Association as a board member and lakefront property owner.

Like many communities in Maine, Alamoosook Lake Dam, has outlived its initial purpose, which was to support the Bucksport paper mill industry, dating back to the 1930's. Since the mill closure in 2014, it has become abundantly clear that for continued economic support of our town, county and overall support of our environment's health and wellbeing, the Alamoosook Lake Dam must remain operational.

The passage of LD 531 will enable the towns most affected by the potential catastrophic outcome of dam closures to work collaboratively to find fiscal solutions for our dams that will continue to help communities prosper, economically, environmentally and recreationally. Alamoosook Lake Dam is an essential resource for the Town of Orland and neighboring towns, with a rich and thriving ecosystem that relies on the dam for habitat homeostasis stability. Any interruption to dam operations will have devastating repercussions to our wildlife, as initially evidenced this past summer when our dam was not operational and lake water levels were reduced >18". Low water levels made for increased water temperatures which promoted increased unwanted plant growth and noticeable loss of fish population.

On an economic level, municipal property tax support from lakefront property owners is critical to the overall infrastructure for the Town of Orland. Property values will most certainly be significantly diminished without the dams. In addition, the travel tourism sector will be greatly debilitated if dam operations cease.

Recreationally, Alamoosook Lake and the surrounding region including the Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust, which comprises over 5100 acres abutting Alamoosook Lake provide bountiful, four-season recreational opportunities including ice fishing, snow shoeing, snow sledding, hiking, biking, boating, bird watching etc. Tourists and visitors to our gorgeous region continue to grow year after year and potential changes to the status quo of our lake will have a decidedly negative impact on the number of visitors traveling to our area.

In summary, I strongly support LD531 and appreciate your time and attention to this very important issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlo DiBiase