

April 7, 2025

Greg Ponte
Maine Trout Unlimited Council

Committee of Environment and Natural Resources

**LD 212 An Act to Require the Valuation of Energy Produced by
Hydropower Dams and Exploration of Alternative Ownership Options
Before They Are Removed**

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Greg Ponte, and I am representing the Maine Council of Trout Unlimited which is made up of six local chapters and 1600+ members in Maine. The Maine Council of Trout Unlimited is a nonprofit conservation organization. Our mission is *"to bring together diverse interests to care for and recover rivers and streams, so our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon."*

LD 212 requires the dam owner to provide an evaluation of the monetary value of the electrical or mechanical power that the dam is capable of generating and that they must demonstrate to the DEP or LUPC that the applicant made all reasonable efforts to sell the dam and was unable to reach an agreement on a sale with an alternative owner.

We oppose LD 212 because FERC is the governing and responsible agency of hydropower projects with relicensing and controls the dissemination of information. The FERC process already reviews the energy valuation as part of the relicensing process. The economics of hydropower is more than the sum of energy generation and due to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the power generation totals and electricity rates they receive are proprietary information and a potential security risk for further terrorism.

If FERC orders fish passage, and a dam owner determines that the surrender of the FERC license and removal of the dam as the most cost-effective alternative, this bill would put undue financial onus on the dam owner (whom would still be responsible for environmental requirements ordered by FERC and/or the State through the 401 process). In other words- this bill basically is recreating the wheel for something already done via the FERC re-licensing process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I am happy to answer questions that relate to this LD or my testimony. in opposition to it.

Greg Ponte
86 Mead Point Rd.
West Gardiner
04345

