



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

LD 1382

Steven Bishop

PO Box 214,
Bucksport, ME 04416
Residence: (207) 991-7909
Steven.Bishop@legislature.maine.gov

Senator Anne Beebe-Center, Representative Tavis Hasenfus, and members of Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

I am Representative Steve Bishop. I represent District 17, which includes Bucksport, Orland, Penobscot, and Verona Island.

When we talk about public safety we normally think police, fire, EMS. Not Dams. But for my communities it is very much a public safety concern for many reasons.

The town of Bucksport houses a body of water called silver lake. Silver lake is the towns drinking and is physically located at a higher elevation on the back side of town. This dam maintenance is crucial to the safety of the town. If the Dam were to be unmaintained and loose its strength the water would destroy much of the town below.

The town of Orland houses two bodies of water, the Alamoosic Lake and Toddy Pond. Both are crucial to the fire suppression and safety efforts of our community. These are the sources of the water used in our fire suppression efforts.

All of this is contingent on the dams being maintained so that they can continue to do what they were built to do.

Thank you, and I look forward to answering any questions.



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The Alamoosook Lake and Toddy Pond Dams play a vital role in fire protection for the Town of Orland by providing accessible water for firefighting efforts. The Toddy Pond Dam also provides accessible firefighting water supplies for the towns of Penobscot and Surry. Larger fire incidents such as structure and forest fires often require large volumes of water to extinguish and overhaul. All electric vehicles with Lithium Ion batteries have been documented to require in excess of 35,000 gallons to properly extinguish, more if there are other vehicles or structure exposures in close proximity. The various key locations on these lakes where fire apparatus can access water now are instrumental to firefighting efforts.

The projected lower water levels with removal of these dams would severely restrict firefighting water access through much of the town. To draw water from a lake, pond or stream, the fire truck must get within 20 feet of the source to employ suction hoses and strainers. The water must also be deep enough to avoid pulling in mud and vegetation to not damage the fire pump. Locations where this is possible now will be severely restricted or made unusable. The loss of accessible water will require more tanker resources from further distances or additional tankers within the Orland Fire Department for initial operations until mutual aid can arrive.

Alternatives to provide accessible firefighting water could include underground water tanks, fire ponds, additional fire apparatus or the installation of a pressurized fire hydrant system, all cost prohibitive, requiring ongoing funding and management. Failure to provide alternatives locally would create delays for effective firefighting water, causing greater risk to life and property.

Hopefully this makes sense and is somewhat helpful. Other towns have installed underground tanks. The new luxury camping site on Dodge Hill in North Orland looked at installing a 10,000 gallon underground tank, at a price tag of over \$40,000. Nothing is cheap. Fire ponds would require landowner permission with dry hydrants, which are also pretty pricy.

Bobby Conary
Orland Fire Chief