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Testimony of Representative Art Bell in SUPPORT of:

LD 1848: An Act to Implement Recommendations for Improved Dam Safety.

**Presented before the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety ...
5/7/25**

Good afternoon Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and colleagues of the Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee. My name is Art Bell, and I represent House District #103, Yarmouth.

Maine, like the rest of our country has a of aging infrastructure. Serving on our Environment and Natural Resources Committee I hear testimony every day on how climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of storms that hit our state. Our dam infrastructure must be prepared to meet growing risks. The safety of our communities, ecosystems and economies depends upon proactive and well-informed dam management.

LD 1848 will implement recommendations that will:

- improve inspection & maintenance protocols
- enhance emergency planning
- strengthen coordination between state agencies
- focus resources on the most vulnerable and high-impact structures

Investing in these preventative dam safety measures will enable Maine's dam inventory to be more climate resilient in the future.

I urge the Committee to vote "OUGHT to PASS" for LD 1848.