



Senator Marianne Moore
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
(207) 287-1505

Marianne.Moore@legislature.maine.gov

Health & Human Services Committee
Ranking Member

LD 203 - “An Act To Increase Funding for the St. Croix International Waterway Commission”

Good morning Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Marianne Moore. I represent Senate District 6, which includes all of Washington County along with Winter Harbor, Gouldsboro, and Sullivan in Hancock County.

I am here today to present LD 203, “An Act To Increase Funding for the St. Croix International Waterway Commission”

Before I get into the details regarding the bill, I would like to give you a little background about the St. Croix International Waterway Commission (SWIWC):

In 1986 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between New Brunswick (NB), Canada and Maine signed by Premier Richard Hattfield and Governor Joe Brennan to establish a cooperative program through their respective Legislatures to jointly manage their common heritage river, the St. Croix River, and its adjacent lands and resources. (Copy attached.)

The St. Croix River actually runs from North Lake in Orient to Passamaquoddy Bay in Perry, including East Grand Lake and Spednic Lake, covering nearly 110 miles.

The initial goal of the cooperative program was to promote boating, canoeing, fishing, hiking, bird watching, camping, swimming, picnicking, ice fishing, hunting, cross country skiing, etc.

In 1987 the Maine Legislature and NB adopted similar legislation creating the St. Croix International Waterway Commission (SCIWC) with four (4) Canadian (CAN) and four (4) United States (US) Commissioners designating a Co-Chair from each side. Members are appointed for a term of 2 years and are eligible for re-appointment.

I have attached a copy of the Maine Statutes establishing the Commission: [TITLE 38: WATERS AND NAVIGATION, Chapter 8: ST. CROIX INTERNATIONAL WATERWAY COMMISSION](#) §991 - §1002

As you can see by the Statute, the objectives of the Commission are to protect and manage natural and recreational resources current and future; encourage and maintain high quality back country recreational and educational experience; encourage tourism leading to economic benefit to the region; protect and promote awareness of heritage including Indian and Early European; insure coordination in planning and management of shared resources; assure fair representation of all user groups; obtain optimal benefits from recreation and educational use of resources.

The Statute calls for employing both CAN and US citizens, sharing the cost of developing and management of SCIWC staffed by line agencies from both Maine and NB, and establishing four (4) working committees to include: Land Use, Recreation, Fish and Wildlife, and Non-Recreational Use.

The Statute charges the Commission to develop a Management Plan every four years by consensus along with an annual Report and budget to be submitted to Maine and NB annually.

The initial budget included \$30K for an Executive Director (ED) and \$15K for Administrative Assistant (AA) for a total of \$60K (US funds) including benefits; however, the US has only appropriated \$25K per year for the Commission. Currently, both Maine and NB appropriate \$25K each to support management of the organization.

Through the years the Commission has struggled to keep an ED to oversee the organization mostly because of the workload. Job duties, besides managing the day-to-day operation, include fund raising to maintain the Recreational Programs along the river. SCIWC currently operates a Recreational Program out of St Croix, NB (directly across from Vanceboro, ME). The four recreational crew members and one supervisor work the watershed from East Grand Lake to Baileyville, maintaining over 70 campsites, (28 on the US side) and overseeing all activities on the watershed. Workload now requires the AA position.

LD 203 is asking for an additional \$25K per fiscal year to allow the hiring of an AA who will help with managing and networking on both sides of Border to relieve some of the workload required of the ED. NB has been asked to appropriate an additional \$25K as well.

As an added note, the \$50K allocation has been included in the Governor's Biennial Budget (A-474).

I would be happy to answer any questions!