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Senator Stacy Brenner, Chair  
Representative Ralph Tucker, House Chair  
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

April 30, 2021

Opposition to LD 676, Relating to Reclassification of the Androscoggin River

Please accept this letter as official opposition from the Town of Rumford on reclassifying the Androscoggin River to Class B. Although the health of the river has improved drastically over the last few decades, changing the classification has major implications to the economic stability of the River Valley region. The river currently is in great shape and is a superb fishery currently. Changing its classification only puts those discharging into it in immediate non-compliance. Correcting that would be an unachievable financial burden with severe impact to all the communities served by those entities. We are currently working extremely hard on economic growth and attracting new business and residents to this area. A reclassification would prohibit any new or increased discharge to the river. That would effectively put the brakes on new development.

The proposed legislation will not improve water quality but it will impose unnecessary costs on municipal and private dischargers, and restrict future growth. In an already struggling economy we simply can not afford this change. Please accept this letter as a resounding opposition and this bill Ought not to Pass.

Respectfully,

Stacy Carter, Town Manager  
Town of Rumford