

Testimony of  
Ben Gilman for  
The Maine State Chamber of Commerce  
In opposition to  
**L.D. , 676 An Act To Reclassify Part of the Androscoggin River to Class B**

May 3, 2021

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Ben Gilman, I am from Gorham and I represent the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, a statewide business organization made up of both large and small businesses, here to provide you with our testimony in opposition to **L.D. , 676 An Act To Reclassify Part of the Androscoggin River to Class B**

**L.D. 676**, seeks to reclassify the lower portion of the Androscoggin River. Maine's business community supports a clean and healthy environment supported by a robust regulatory framework that ensures we are stewards of our most precious resources. Our environmental policies should be based on science – including our river classifications. The State of Maine has always made a river classification based on science. The Department of Environmental Protection oversees the water classification of Maine's rivers including the lower Androscoggin and at this time, as we have heard today, the department does not believe that there is not a need for reclassification of the lower Androscoggin. The proposed reclassification is not based in scientific results and the business community needs consistency in its river classification regulations based in science. There are many jobs that can be impacted by changes to the river's classification and that is why it is best left up to the regulators within DEP. The Maine State Chamber of Commerce opposes the reclassification of the lower Androscoggin at this time due to the inconsistency it would create in how our river classification system is currently administered.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with our testimony.

