

Paul Grenier
Berlin, NH

May 3, 2021

Re: LD 676 – An Act to Reclassify Part of the Androscoggin River to Class B

To Whom it May Concern,

White Mountain Paper Company, formerly Gorham Paper, is located along the Lower Androscoggin River in Gorham NH, and is one of the operating Mills that will be negatively impacted by the proposed LD 676, as will the other Gulf Island Pond dischargers, all of whom are operating within their existing discharger permits.

If passed, LD 676 will immediately put White Mountain Paper into non-compliance, and subject it to costly expenditures for equipment or process changes to meet the new license criteria. This, despite the fact that DEP modeling indicates that even the elimination of all discharges into the Androscoggin will not improve water quality to Class B standards.

As background, White Mountain Paper, formerly Gorham Paper, has been a critical employer to our region for decades. The currently owners required acquired it out of bankruptcy at the end of 2020 and have assembled a plan that I support, to not only stabilize its operations for the long term, but also in a manner that could facilitate growth in the future. LD 676 jeopardizes this, and by extension, puts these much-needed jobs at risk.

This Mill and its continued operations are important to the City of Berlin, and neighboring Gorham, in addition to the State of New Hampshire, as it is one of the last few remaining paper mills.

The proposed LD 676 represents a significant negative impact to the Mill and its employees, and I do not believe it accomplishes what was likely intended when proposed. Rather, it creates an unfair burden on White Mountain Paper, and other lawful dischargers along the Androscoggin. As such, I respectfully ask the Committee on Environmental and Natural Resources to not support the passage of LD 676.

Regards,

Paul Grenier
Mayor – Berlin, NH