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LD 1979

Dam removals and strict fish passage requirements have resulted in highly successful river and fishery restorations throughout Maine that have been inspirational to restoration projects across the globe. The language in LD 1979 would have made globally significant projects like the Edwards Dam removal in 1999 and the Penobscot River Restoration Project, completed in 2017, impossible. Projects like these have and continue to deliver significant economic, recreation, and environmental benefits that might never be possible in the future if LD 1979 were enacted.

This bill require the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry (DACF) to develop river management plans for every major river in the state with a focus on protecting hydropower interests. DACF lacks the funding, expertise, time, and manpower to develop such management plans and requiring it to do so would mean a large fiscal note for LD 1979 and likely significant delays on management plans or utter non-completion