

Peter Garrett
Winslow
LD 1979

LD 1979 has nothing to do with "sustaining good-paying jobs in the Forest Products Industry." It is all about taking away DEP's responsibility for setting water quality standards, handing it back for Federal enforcement via EPA.

Back in the 1980s I used to be on the technical staff of DEP. In regulating that area I understood that DEP must hold to or exceed Federal standards. I and my colleagues were proud to make Maine better by exceeding Federal standards. In fact, that has been the general rule for State/Federal interactions on environmental enforcement since at least the promulgation of the Clean Water Act. It applies to all areas where the Federal EPA oversees a State environmental regulatory program (e.g. water, air, hazardous waste, other wastes).

The State of Maine has done very well under that rule, most notably in the area of water quality in rivers. For instance, in improvements in the water quality and biological integrity of the Kennebec and Sebasticook since the removal of the Edwards and Winslow dams, and the revitalization of the Penobscot from Bangor to Howland and West Enfield.

Yet LD 1979 calls for taking away DEP's rule making! We'd be crazy to do so.

Please vote Ought Not to Pass for this bill.