

**Testimony of Christi Holmes on LD 1979 to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**

**February 28, 2022**

Good morning committee members,

My name is Christi Holmes and I am a Registered Maine Hunting and Fishing Guide, engineer, and outdoor writer. I oppose this bill.

In my 9-5 job as a design engineer, I work closely with the Maine DEP and Army Corps of Engineers. I have great faith in them and this bill would limit their enforcement of the Clean Water Act and take away their ability to protect Maine's clean water and fishery resources.

This bill creates a financial burden on the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, as they do not currently have the resources to create a plan for every major river in the State.

Past dam removal projects in Maine have resulted in significant economic, recreation, and environmental benefits. If a bill like this had been in place, those removals would not have occurred.

Proponents of this bill state concerns over jobs. We are all concerned for the workers. There are good options to achieve fish passage goals without adverse impacts to the mill, such as what was done in past dam removal projects.

If we want any hope of recovering the Atlantic salmon, and to protect other populations of sea run fish, the environmental impacts of dams need to carry more weight, not less. Maine is becoming more developed, and we need to ensure we keep our rivers and forests healthy for the next generation.

Brookfield needs to meet current State and Federal standards, not change the standards, which they are trying to do with this bill.

I urge you to vote ought not to pass, and support healthy, free-flowing rivers.

Thank you,

Christi Holmes

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