



**Senator Lisa Keim**  
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**Judiciary Committee**  
**Government Oversight Committee**

To Whom It May Concern,

As the Maine State Senator for District 18, I have the distinct honor of representing the people of Rumford, Maine. It has come to my attention that Brookfield Energy is seeking a renewal of their Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license on the Middle Dam. It is my hope that as part of the license renewal, public access to the site will be considered.

The dam was originally built in 1916 alongside the Falls Hill Trail. Rumford Falls Power Company, which owned and operated the dam as a subsidiary of Oxford Paper Company, allowed public access to the trail and the picturesque 'West Viewing Area'. In 1994, when the dam was last relicensed, it was still under the ownership of the Rumford Falls Power Company. Public access on the property existed until 2014 when Brookfield closed access with very little explanation.

Despite this long history of public access and use, the Falls Hill Trail and 'West Viewing Area' has never been included in the FERC licensing as a recreational asset of the project. In the past, this may have been less vexing due to the river's pollution, however, after years of expansive cleanup effort, this deterrent is thankfully no longer an issue. Public interest in the trail and viewing area has greatly increased. The people of Rumford, and the surrounding River Valley Area live in Western Maine, in part, because of their love of the outdoors. The recreational areas situated at Brookfield dam could be a real asset to the River Valley area, positively impacting the area's attractiveness, and the community's health and wellbeing.

It is in the public interest of the citizens of the greater River Valley area that a formal recreation plan be created by Brookfield, and attached to the license in perpetuity to ensure that access to these resources is not compromised in the future.

I support the study requests of the Town of Rumford and those of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife with regards to fisheries studies. It is critically important to preserve our existing resources and work together to ensure that access to the Maine outdoors, and its unique settings, is readily available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa M. Keim".

Lisa Keim  
State Senator

Document Content(s)

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