

Glenn Gordon, Rumford, ME.
Sunday, May 10, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you as a resident and small business owner from Rumford, Maine.

My wife and I are small business owners in downtown Rumford. We are located on Congress Street, a short distance to the Rumford Falls on the Androscoggin River. We are located in the western mountains of Maine, an area that is heavily reliant on tourism.

The Rumford Falls is one of the most beautiful natural resources we have in our region. There was a time when residents of the area had access to walking trails on both sides of the river. Access has been limited over the past several years and that has discouraged people from coming to the downtown area for recreation purposes. This affects businesses like mine which rely partially on attracting pedestrian traffic.

Rumford Falls has tremendous scenic value which can contribute to the downtown economy if enough flow is maintained throughout the year. The falls are easily accessible as they are located running parallel to Route 2, which is the major route of east-west travel from the coast of Maine to the northern parts of Vermont and New Hampshire. Canadian tourists also come through the area. But tourists must have access for parking, walking trails and clear views of the Falls.

At this time, a 60 room hotel is under construction near the base of the Falls. Access to the Falls would make the local hotel an attractive place for a stay-over when traveling west-east across northern New England.

Tourism related to sport-fishing, hiking, skiing, mountain biking, 4 wheeling and snowmobiling would all benefit from access to the Rumford Falls area.

I am asking the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to require that Brookfield Renewable Partners open access to the areas surrounding the Rumford Falls for recreation purposes that we have traditionally enjoyed in the area and to also give our area an necessary economic boost to support the tourist economy.

Sincerely,

Glenn and Sandee Gordon
72 Congress St.
Rumford, ME 04276

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