

Jennifer F Kreckel, Rumford, ME.

I am a downtown business owner and have been a resident of the Rumford for over 25 years. It is very sad to me and my family that our community has been denied access to one of our significant natural beauties which is currently owned by Brookfield. Many people in our community have fond memories from the times that they were able to go on the Falls Trail and the picnic area which was historically open to public. Rumford Falls Power Co. developed and maintained the Falls Trail and picnic area for the citizens of Rumford and its visitors. These areas only recently were closed to the public when Brookfield acquired the property. My family and my fellow business owners in Downtown Rumford strongly encourage FERC to require Brookfield to restore the public's access to this natural wonder which will benefit our citizens and which will assist our progress in becoming a recreational destination. Our community leaders have invested in building a Best Western Hotel which will be in close proximity to the Falls Trail. The Falls Trail is also in close proximity to our downtown. Our area has great interest in developing a trail all along the Androscoggin River to connect with our neighboring communities and establish a unified trail system along this great river of Maine. Edmund Muskie was born in Rumford and helped to clean our waterways with his legislation. The Androscoggin River has become a clean water again and the public's use of the Androscoggin should be encouraged as part of our natural heritage. Please restore the public's access to the Falls Trail and the Viewing Area. Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to comment.

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