

Dieter Kreckel, Rumford, ME.

I am writing to support the opening up to the public the trail around the Rumford Falls. For decades the trail was open to the public and when Brookfield Power took over the Hydroelectric plant they closed it. The area is steeped in history with the plant being the first step that Hugh Chisholm made to make Rumford an industrial center for wood products. Maine is known for its natural beauty and the falls are a real part of that. They are the highest falls east of Niagara. The trail would allow local and visitors to the area to appreciate the beauty of the falls. We are trying to rebuild our town with both businesses and tourism.

We are building a Hotel at the foot of the falls to give visitors a place to stay. The falls and any means to enjoy them even more are a huge attraction.

As a physician in town the benefit of outdoor activities including a walk around the falls is extremely important. Walking around a track is ok but pales when one can benefit from walking/running around an area of natural beauty such as the falls.

The reopening of the trail is an important part of our town's future for the population that lives here, our business/economic growth and our health and well being.

Please help us open this area to the public for its enjoyment once again. The benefits to our community cannot be underestimated.

Thank you

Document Content(s)

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