



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

August 11, 2021

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0021

Re: Potential Shawmut Dam removal impacts

To whom it may concern:

We are writing to express our support for relicensing of the Shawmut Dam in the Kennebec River in Maine. The towns we represent, all of Waterville and part of Oakland, are close to the dam and it is of great importance to the people there. Of particular concern is the economic importance of the Sappi Mill, which relies upon the dam for its continued operation.

The removal of the dam, or even a dramatic lowering of water around it, would have a serious detrimental economic impact on the region. The Sappi plant is one of the largest employers in the area, and is also a major property tax payer. The plant depends on the dam for its freshwater intake and its wastewater systems, and without adequate water the plant cannot operate.

We are advocating acceptance of the FERC environmental assessment concerning the dam, as it would allow the mill's water intake and wastewater infrastructure to remain in operation. Any ruling which would call for the removal of the dam, or make major changes to it, would negatively impact the people and businesses who live and work in the surrounding communities.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bruce A. White

Bruce White
State Representative

Colleen M. Madigan

Colleen Madigan
State Representative