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To Mark Draper

Chair, Board of Environmental Protection

c/o Ruth Ann Burke ruth.a.burke@maine.gov.

Dear Mark,

I am writing with regard to the proposed Spinney wharf/dock/ramp in Alna along the Sheepscot River.

I had written earlier comments and agree with the abutters in their support to appeal the DEP's decision . I also filed a comment on the minor revision application and urged that the original work window should remain and not be revised.

I feel the scale of this proposed project is still too large for the location and that the quiet stretch of river would be forever changed.

I have lived on the Sheepscot River north of the proposed site since the early 70s, presently in a farm purchased by my father-in-law in 1937. My father- in- law and brother- in- law co- founded the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association (now Midcoast Conservancy) over 50 years ago after seeing the need to protect the watershed and preserve shoreland areas from encroaching development. They wanted to insure that people today could have the same experience of an unspoiled, undeveloped river that they so appreciated and were privileged to know. For years I have canoed the river and from my back yard I have watched as every Spring through Fall people take their turn and paddle from Head Tide to Sheepscot. This is the most distinctly undisturbed, wild and scenic section of the river, unlike the river from Sheepscot to Wiscasset . Because of the foresight and efforts of so many people, the river in that portion has remained largely unchanged and today we all can enjoy that unique experience . That experience of the natural character of the river from Head Tide to Sheepscot is allowed to anyone who travels on the river by traditional access (kayak, canoe and small boats) and is not confined to a select group, or a club. The unchanged river is open to everyone. What would change with the proposed wharf/dock/ramp for motorized access for one group- is that the experience for everyone else would never again be the same.

There are no permanent structures on the Sheepscot in Alna except two bridges and a dam. To say that a large permanent structure jutting out across the river will not adversely impact the experience or the view or the shoreline when there are no other permanent structures on that stretch of the river like the one proposed, is simply not true.

Access for motorized craft also already exists and has existed for years in neighboring Wiscasset.

The proposed wharf/dock/ramp would present a permanent obstacle in a sensitive portion of the river when the town of Alna just spent five years in collaboration with the Atlantic Salmon Federation(and many other organizations) to alter a portion of the Head Tide Dam so it would become less of an obstacle to the passage of migrating fish. The public site was also made more safely accessible to people and boaters as well. As Town Archivist I served on that committee and feel the proposed wharf/dock/ramp would negate much of what we worked so hard to achieve. The proposed project it is too large for it's location and would represent more losses than gains for the river and all those who use it, and I urge you to support the appeal and reverse the permit.

Sincerely,

Doreen Conboy