

An Act to Modify Exceptions for Certain

Water Discharge to

Class AA and SA Waters

The Honorable Senator Stacy Brenner, Chair

The Honorable Representative Ralph Tucker, Chair

And Distinguished Members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee

My name is Arkon Horne and I serve as the Controller at **Daaquam Lumber Maine Inc.**'s sawmill facility located in Masardis. Originally built in 1976, our 460-acre site is located near the banks of the Aroostook River, upstream from the designated AA Waterway beginning at the Ashland Route 11 bridge and running North.

I have provided this Testimony on behalf of our Company in support of LD 1801. Passage of LD 1801 is extremely important and will allow our corporation to continue to manufacture lumber products, employ 125 workers, contribute to the commerce and tax base of surrounding communities, serve as a cost-effective destination for timber sourced from the North Maine Woods, supply critical mill residuals to our partnered paper and wood pellet manufacturers and continually invest in people, machinery and technology so we remain competitive and viable.

Historical Significance:

In August of 2021 our corporation met with Bill Sheehan and other officials from Maine DEP to discuss the Aroostook River's AA designation north of the Ashland Route 11 bridge, the proximity of our facility located 8 miles upstream to this AA waterway, the update that Federal EPA now considers this AA waterway section a "Waterway of National Significance" and the looming potential that heightened storm water runoff restrictions may impact the operations of our facility.

Bill advised that Maine DEP was going to formally oppose Federal EPA's stringent interpretation of the waterway's AA status which could adversely impact commercial operations located upstream along its banks. Daaquam pledged its assistance to provide information and testimony to help Maine DEP make its case.

Future Significance of LD 1801:

1. LD 1801 is necessary to remove regulatory uncertainty for discharges of storm water to AA and SA Waters especially for our industrial site.

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2. Maine DEP was successful in working an agreement with EPA Boston resolving EPA's concerns protecting water quality on bodies of water in question.
3. Passage of LD 1801 will allow Daaquam to continue to operate and invest in its operations without fear of future non-compliance and impending stoppages.

Daaquam respectfully requests your support of our forest products industry and your vote of **Ought to Pass** on LD 1801.

Respectfully Submitted,

Arkon Horne, CCP, CITC
Controller

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Arkon Horne
Daaquam Lumber Maine Inc.

Hello,

Please consider the attached document as Daaquam's Written Testimony to support the passing of LD-1801.

Thank you,
Arkon Horne
Controller
Daaquam Lumber Maine Inc.
Masardis, Maine