

Greetings,

I am writing today to express my concern about the poor water quality of the Union River. The dams that are currently in place on the Union River are blocking fish passage, causing massive fish kills, as well as problems regarding dissolved oxygen, and aquatic habitat.

I encourage you to support strong protections for the Union River and its sea run fish

We need to consider all of the sea run species that are blocked from migrating to their spawning habitat.

We have seen firsthand in Central Maine the remarkable restoration that is possible since the removal of the Edwards dam in Augusta and the Halifax dam in Winslow.

I live in Benton, and this year we have had millions of alewives pass through the Sebasticook River so far, that number is up from around 47,000 in 2006. We have a substantial harvest every year which brings revenue to the town of Benton. Because of the alewife run we also have an abundant gathering of eagles in the spring here in Benton along the lower Sebasticook River. People are coming from all over the state of Maine and beyond to photograph and observe the largest convocation of eagles ever documented in the Northeastern United States. Along with that, there is also an abundance of osprey, geese, great blue heron and all kinds of other wildlife that thrive in this area since we have taken measures to restore our ecosystem.

I ask that you take my comments into consideration and deny the Water Quality Certificates for the Graham Lake dam and Ellsworth dam.

Respectfully,
Emma Donovan

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