

September 30, 2022

Kyle Olcott Hydropower Coordinator Maine Department of Environmental Protection 17 State House Station August, ME 04333-0017

Dear Mr. Olcutt,

We are writing to urge the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) approval of the Shawmut Dam's application for Water Quality Certification in response to the supplemental fish passage measures filed by Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC on September 22, 2022. The supplemental measures are meaningful additions that will support effective fish passage without negatively impacting the Sappi mill. This is a compromise solution that, with DEP's endorsement, would provide much-needed certainty to the communities throughout Kennebec and Somerset counties.

The dams on the lower Kennebec River, including Shawmut Dam, support over 4,300 Maine jobs and \$1.5 billion in annual economic activity statewide. The loss of Shawmut Dam, in particular, would result in devastating economic impacts as well as the loss of in-state clean energy at a time when Maine ratepayers can least afford it. Prompt approval of Brookfield's latest proposal would keep the dam operating and represent a win/win for all interests.

Sincerely,

Sen. Russell Black

District 17

Rep. Jack Ducharme

District 111

Sen. Lisa Keim

District 18

Rep. Amanda Collamore

District 106

Sen. Brad Farrin

District 3

Rep. Colleen Madigan

District 110

Sen. Scott Cyrway

District 16

Rep. Jeffery Hanley

District 87

Rep. Jennifer Poirier

District 107

Rep. Michael Perkins
District 77

Rep. Shelley Rudnicki District 108 Bruce A. White Rep. Bruce White District 109