

AUBURN SEWERAGE DISTRICT

268 COURT ST. - P.O. BOX 414

AUBURN, MAINE 04212-0414

September 17, 2008

Chairman Ernest Hilton
Maine Board of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: Proposal to reclassify a portion of the Androscoggin River

Dear Mr. Hilton and Members of the Board,

This letter is written neither in support or opposition to the proposal submitted by the Friends of Merrymeeting Bay (FOMB) to reclassify, from Class C to Class B, the lower Androscoggin River from its mouth in Merrymeeting Bay to the Durham Boat Launch or Worumbo Dam. We strongly believe FOMB should be commended for the interest and efforts to collect water quality data along this section of river with the goal of demonstrating that Class B standards are being met.

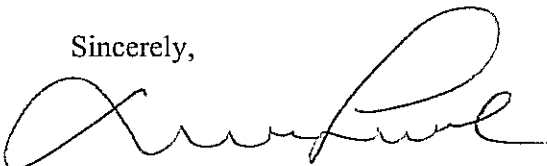
We also believe that water quality on sections of the Androscoggin River currently meet or exceed the current classification and meet those of Class B. We also believe the Board of Environmental Protection needs to give strong consideration to reclassifying portions of the Androscoggin River. To this end we believe the Maine Department of Environmental Protection should, at minimum, immediately establish a water quality monitoring program on the Androscoggin River from Merrymeeting Bay to the base of Gulf Island Dam.

The Cities of Lewiston and Auburn have invested millions of dollars in recent years in efforts to improve water quality of the Androscoggin River. In addition millions of public and private dollars have been invested in public access trails, and numerous private investments along the river are also evident. We recognize that clean rivers enhance the local economy and vitality of all communities surrounding them. A clean, healthy river attracts people, new businesses, and increases property value.

The original estimated cost of the separation improvements required in Auburn as detailed in our CSO Master Plan (prepared in 1999) was \$19.2 M. Through December 31, 2007, capital improvements have exceeded \$13M coming from local property taxes and sewer user fees. This investment has separated nearly 25 miles of sewers, or 81% of the projected full separation effort. Completion of the separation work in Auburn is projected for the year 2013.

On behalf of the Trustees of the Auburn Sewerage District we wish to be on record as neither supporting nor opposing the FOMB proposal to reclassify the lower Androscoggin River from Class C to Class B. We strongly urge the MDEP to immediately establish a water quality monitoring program on the Androscoggin River from Merrymeeting Bay to the base of Gulf Island Dam to be prepared with the data to reclassify the Androscoggin River from Class C to Class B in the very near future.

Sincerely,



Normand R. Lamie, P.E.
General Manager
Auburn Sewerage District