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January 25, 2025

Brunswick Town Council
Council Chamber
85 Union Street
Brunswick, ME 04011

RE: Improved Migratory Fish Passage at the Brunswick-Topsham Dam

Dear Members of the Brunswick Town Council,

I am writing to extend my earnest thanks to the Council for considering the proposed resolution to support improved migratory fish passage at the Brunswick-Topsham Dam. This initiative represents a crucial step toward addressing a longstanding issue on the Androscoggin River, one that has persisted for over two hundred years.

I am a Brunswick citizen and the Founder and Coordinator of the Free the Andro Coalition which is currently comprised of Merrymeeting Bay Trout Unlimited, Maine Rivers, and American Rivers. I have worked with your Town Manager, Julia Henze, and the Head of Parks and Recreation, Tom Farrell, to craft the resolution and vet it with four standing Town Commissions or Committees focused on publicly shared natural resources and recreational opportunities in our community.

Over the last two months I have met with the Shellfish Committee, the Recreation Commission, the Rivers and Coastal Waters Commission, and the Conservation Commission. Each of these groups demonstrated remarkable hospitality, posed insightful questions, and ultimately endorsed the resolution.

I look forward to presenting this request to the Town Council on February 3rd to further discuss the resolution and address any questions you may have as you consider a vote.

Thank you once again for your support and commitment to this important cause.

Sincerely,



Chip Spies

Resident, Water Street, Brunswick
Founder and Coordinator, Free the Andro Coalition
Member of Merrymeeting Bay Trout Unlimited