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I am a resident of Veazie, Maine, living on the Riverside of the Penobscot River, the state's largest watershed, and site of much economic history in this region. In 2013, the Penobscot River Restoration Trust successfully completed an almost 20-year project to remove dams and create efficiencies for existing hydropower facilities. We designed new fish ladders, bypasses. This was all gained with the consensus of many partners, local, state and federal, plus The Penobscot Nation on whose land I reside. Many organizations worked out agreements and after 11 years, the results are stunning.

We have successfully rewilded this river and sea life has been restored, along with the whole chain of life (as everything is connected), from fish to Bald Eagles, Osprey, otters, mussels. I saw a seal in front of my house and I am many miles from the sea. The water is cleaner, recreation has been boosted, and those stakeholder partnerships forged in the process have given the state a grand precedent for change.

Please consider the proposals for remediating damage and healing the past for your watershed community. I'm not a biologist, I am a resident who has seen real change and the value of environmental protection. You have a chance to make a huge difference for the future, which, as we know, is uncertain because of our past industrial actions. Thank you for the opportunity to share my words.