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September 16, 2008

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

Re: Reclassification of the Androscoggin River pursuant to 38 MRSA,
secs. 464 and 465

Dear Chairman Hilton,

The Board of Directors of the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust is pleased to advise you of its support for the reclassification of the Androscoggin River from the Durham Boat launch or Worumbo Dam to its mouth at Merrymeeting Bay, from Class C to Class B, as set forth in the petition of the Friends of Merrymeeting Bay (FOMB). The BTLT Board voted in favor of this reclassification at its September 15, 2008 board meeting.

Reclassification will result in the maintenance of Class B standards, which FOMB data show are presently being met in this section of the river. Because the river already meets Class B standards, the BTLT Board of Directors believes the requested reclassification is appropriate and desirable to help ensure that the Androscoggin River's water quality will continue to improve into the future.

The Androscoggin River is a significant natural resource in the communities of Brunswick and Topsham and it is important to the BTLT that its water quality and associated wildlife habitat and recreational resources remain healthy and improve into the future. The BTLT holds two easements on the banks of the Androscoggin River in Brunswick totaling 36 acres as well as 40-acre Cow Island located in the middle of the river between Brunswick and Topsham. Because of this land ownership, we are particularly vested in maintaining and improving the health of the Androscoggin River.

On a personal note, having grown up on the Androscoggin River in Turner and Auburn in the 1970s and 1980s, I can attest firsthand to how far the health of the river has come; yet, as I continue to live on the river today (now in Topsham), I am often reminded of how far it still has to go. When I am out on

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the river or walking on its banks with my young children, I will frequently get questions like -- "why can't we go swimming in the river" or "why can't we eat that fish". These innocent questions remind me that even though we have come so far in cleaning up this beautiful river, there is still a lot to be done.

Therefore, on behalf of the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust Board of Directors, I would like to urge the Board of Environmental Protection to approve the reclassification of the Androscoggin River (from the Durham Boat launch or Worumbo Dam to its mouth at Merrymeeting Bay) from Class C to Class B at your meeting scheduled for September 18, 2008.

Please contact me with any questions. Your consideration of this request is sincerely appreciated.

Sincerely,



Angela Twitchell
Executive Director