

Greater East Grand Economic Council
P.O. Box 465
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Draft Letter to Governor Mills & St. Croix International Waterway Commission

April 13, 2021

The Honorable Janet Mills
Governor, State of Maine
1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

St. Croix International Waterway
Commission
Box 610
Calais, ME
04619-0610

Dear Governor Mills:

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Forest City Dam – East Grand Lake

It is going on two (2) years since FERC came to Danforth to “listen” to potential solutions to the future of the Forest City Dam. During this time frame the Greater East Grand Region Economic Planning Team has strived to develop an economic roadmap for this remote and rural area of Eastern Maine. Thousands of hours of volunteer time have been invested in fund raising, preparing documents, attending meetings, and collaborating with key people in government, business, and regional planning organizations. Work continues to this day in broadband planning, a major focus on youth with a pilot project entitled “Young Adult and Youth” in entrepreneurship, and the formation of a formal nonprofit economic entity to represent the Region.

Testimony offered to FERC in August of 2019 by the Planning Team stated:

“East Grand Lake, as currently vested, embodies the recreational, aesthetic and economic landscape of our entire Region. Rural decline is real, and our planning efforts are not without a sense of urgency. Bottom line: Even the threat of a diminished East Grand Lake has called into question the economic survival of local communities. The actual act would mean collapse. For the Greater East Grand area: Preserving the East Grand Landscape – Preserves the Region.”

As a sign of the importance of the well-being of the East Grand Lake area our group expanded the footprint of the Greater East Grand Region to include a slice of Western New Brunswick. Both Canadian and American cottage owners in New Brunswick are an important customer base for our local businesses.

The loss of the Forest City Dam and accompanying drop in water levels of East Grand and North Lakes and Monument Stream would render catastrophic economic and environmental damage to the entire Region.

We trust you are robustly representing these vital interests and the lifeblood of the people of this Region.

Thank you,

Wayne Smith, President
Greater East Grand Region Economic Council