



Town of Goffstown

TOWN OFFICES

16 MAIN STREET • GOFFSTOWN, NH 03045

August 8, 2025

Attn: Emily Nichols
Aquatic Resource Mitigation Program
Wetlands Bureau, Land Resources Management
Water Division, NH Department of Environmental Services
P.O. Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

RE: Letter of Support for Hadley Falls Dam Removal and River Restoration Project

To Whom It May Concern,

The Goffstown Select Board is pleased to express support for the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) full proposal to the Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Fund Program for the Hadley Falls Dam Removal and River Restoration Project ¹. This project is crucial for addressing the significant safety and environmental concerns associated with the high hazard Hadley Falls Dam in Goffstown, NH. This project contributes to meeting several goals of the 2021 Merrimack River Watershed Comprehensive Plan for Diadromous Fishes developed by NOAA Fisheries, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife, the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

The project will involve removing the concrete spillway of Hadley Falls dam, restoring approximately 2,800 linear feet of riverbed and banks, and enhancing the riverine and wetland systems of the Piscataquog River. This restoration will improve public safety, increase wetland and upland buffers, reduce flood flow elevation, enhance water quality, and restore connectivity for native fish species and other aquatic organisms, including benefits to American eel and diadromous fish species such as American shad, blueback herring, and alewife. The removal of Hadley Falls Dam will allow these and other aquatic organisms to travel upstream from Gregg Lake accessing 257 river miles within the Piscataquog River watershed.

This application to the ARM Fund Program seeks funding to complete plans and specifications, collect remaining site information, obtain necessary permits, remove the dam and restore the river and monitor the performance of the removal and final restoration.

I strongly encourage you to support this vital project, which will significantly enhance the ecological resources of the watershed and improve public safety. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

p.p. *Derek M Horne*

Chairman Peter Georgantas, Goffstown Select Board

ec: Corey Clark, Chief Engineer, NHDES Dam Bureau, corey.j.clark@des.nh.gov

¹ 08/25/25 - Goffstown Select Board voted 4-1-0 to provide letter of support for NHDES ARM Grant; Selectman Jim Craig opposed.