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As a homeowner and member of the community living where I can both see and hear the Wilder Dam, I am eager to contribute to the discussion about the future of the area in this relicensing process; in particular the land and parks surrounding the dam area. Kilowatt parks (North and South) are critical to the local landscape, offering community gathering and recreation opportunities. As a steward to the local environment and culture, I urge Great River Hydro to contribute to the cost of maintaining and preserving these areas. I also ask that in the licensing process, these costs be included and plans be made for long-term preservation and improvements to the area. I defer to the Town of Hartford to determine what the full extent of those costs and plans are, but implore all involved to ensure that these parks remain a part of community. I also feel strongly that they are due for improvements to make them more universally accessible, taking into consideration those with physical limitations as well as members of our community of all ages. This is the responsibility of the town and Great River Hydro who must work together and include this in the re-licensure plans.

Our family are also frequent users of the river for kayaking and we are keen that access to the river be maintained and even improved for users of both self-propelled and motorized craft. Great River Hydro should be sure that the dam and flows of water through it do not limit access or usability above the dam and that a long-term view is given to erosion and effects on habitats for wildlife, vegetation, and human users of the waterway.

Furthermore, as a newer resident to the area, I have been told that a footbridge once existed and access to a visitors center was also present. These should be restored to offer educational opportunities, coexistence and collaboration in our community, and connections between the open spaces on the Vermont and New Hampshire sides of the river. Our family would love to be able to walk across the dam to see and learn about how it works and also to access the Boston Lot trails which we can see from our own home.

I hope that this licensing process will take the considerations of the communities that live and play next to the Wilder Dam seriously and write provisions that protect the environmental and financial sustainability with a long term view.

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