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RE: Support for SB-1020, AAC Water Resources & Economic Development

I strongly support SB-1020 which will help the state move forward with more balanced stream flow regulations. Unfortunately, the process for developing the regulations has been flawed because the impact of the regulations on the state's efforts to revitalize its economy has not been fully considered.

The state should be focusing on efforts to remediate brownfields and spur economic development. Instead, the regulations, if enacted as currently drafted, will call into question whether some communities will be in a position to embark on new economic development initiatives.

We cannot allow DEP to dictate economic growth in this state through regulations that result in diminished water supplies when the benefits to the environment have not been quantified and the cost to the state in terms of economic growth has not been fully considered. These are decisions that should be made on a comprehensive level with other agencies at the table.

I therefore urge your support for SB-1020.