



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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### **"Resolve, Directing the Department of Marine Resources To Conduct an Impact Study in the St. George River Estuary"**

Senator Baker, Representative Kumiega, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources, I am Chuck Kruger of Thomaston, serving the fine people of Maine House District 92 which also includes St. George, Cushing, South Thomaston, Matinicus Plantation and the Unorganized Territory of Criehaven.

I am here today to present LD #178, "Resolve, Directing the Department of Marine Resources To Conduct an Impact Study in the St. George River Estuary."

I sponsor this legislation at the request of the Georges River Regional Shellfish Management Organization, which is comprised of five towns on the St. George River charged with administering the local shellfish ordinance and management plan. These are hardworking and dedicated town officials who are working with fishermen to make our resource as productive as it can be while assuring a positive future for all the fisheries.

First, I must uphold a silly tradition and pass out goodies to the Committee. I served proudly on this Committee in the 124<sup>th</sup>, 125<sup>th</sup>, and 126<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislatures and I really enjoyed the experience. I hope you enjoy these little shellfish-shaped chocolates.

Secondly I would like to propose an amendment to this Resolve. I propose to delete the second sentence of Sec. 1, beginning with "The Department must investigate..." and ending with "...marine worms has on nearby seed clams." We believe this change improves the ability of the Department of Marine Resources to conduct a more useful study.

I believe the benefits of this study will extend beyond my district to all areas of the coast. Further, the benefits will extend far beyond the fishing families directly involved. As we know, the shellfish industry is a major economic driver from Kittery to Calais, and we owe it to the people of Maine, for whom we work, to make it as good as it can possibly be.

Thank you.

