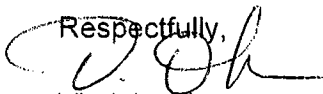


Good Afternoon,

3/17/2015

My name is Virginia Olsen, I am from Stonington, ME I am the Secretary/Treasurer for the Maine Lobster Union Local 207, and I go lobstering with my husband. I apologize now, I may be a little hard to understand I just had oral surgery. If you need me to repeat something please stop me. I am half way through the apprentice program and Walter Kumiega is my Representative. I am opposed to LD 563. I also oppose having this bill carried over to next session. You have or will hear discussions about latent effort, and a mixed response on what needs to happen to address it. The fisherman want to work with DMR to continue to manage a sustainable healthy fishery. In recent talks with Representative Kumiega and by his own testimony he tells you this bill is flawed. Only with transparency will the fishing industry come to the table and help support the changes DMR is seeking. Only then will the industry understand what agenda DMR has and be able to come here and support it. We clearly do not support LD 563. The majority of fisherman here today are from Representative Kumiega's district. It is painfully obvious that this bill was not created with the fisherman or for the fisherman. I see several things very wrong with LD 563, first you are proposing a retroactive bill. Any law that back dates its implementation date is bad legislation. You are taking someones rights away without fulling letting them know, from this point on. I also worry when we take our right to come before all of you away. This bill would allow the current Commissioner to set the landings level by rulemaking. I appreciate the time and consideration our current Commissioner Pat Keliher spends with industry, but that has not always been the case and we have no guarantee that the same considerations will be given by the next commissioner. Would any of us want these limits being set by our previous commissioner that held office for only a few months? My point is these decisions should not be taken out of the legislative process. By carrying this bill to the next session, it already has a place holder before some important discussions have occured, or a chance to see what the ramifications of those changes could be. As it is now, just the submission of this bill is going to increase tag sales and effort. Fisherman are distrusting of the DMR, lets not give them more of a reason to be, lets show them we can work together and craft a bill with everyones best interest. As I have said before, we all want a healthy sustainable fishery, and we all want to be part of the solution by creating a bill we can all support. As I stand before you today, I can't express how happy I am to have this right. My representative has taken the time to meet with the industry and has chosen to pull this bill. As you move forward throughout this session and those that follow, please hear me when I say it is very important to us to have the ability to come before you. Bills that shift the legislative process into rulemaking can seem like a less cumbersome way to regulate our industry but we give up so much to do so. I know I would rather drive to augusta and speak with all of you. Thanks so much for all of your time.

Respectfully,



Virginia Olsen

534 Oceanville Rd

Stonington, ME 04681