



*Seeking common ground, working for the common good*

March 11, 2015

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Rev. Sue Gabrielson  
*Unitarian Universalist*

**Testimony on LD 493 An Act to Create the Ocean Acidification Council**

To: Senator Linda L. Baker (chair) and Representative Walter A. Kumiega III, (chair) and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

The Maine Council of Churches (MCC) urges the Committee to vote **OUGHT TO PASS on LD 493.**

A year ago MCC submitted testimony supporting LD 1602, emergency legislation to create the Ocean Acidification Commission (OAC). We did so in response to the deep concerns about deteriorating marine ecosystem health and its impact on Maine working waterfronts that were expressed by participants in our "Fishes and Loaves" project presented in faith and secular groups from Kittery to Machias. This year we have followed the OAC's work and participated in informative workshops and work group sessions, as the OAC comprehensively studied and gathered information from diverse sources to create the report and recommendations they have presented to this legislature.

From the report we know clearly that the situation is grave and there is an urgent need to continue the OAC's work. The proposed Ocean Acidification Council would provide continued study combined with sensible mitigation and adaptation solutions and public policies that Maine researchers, fishermen, government bodies, and concerned citizens are ready to support. This is a promising way forward and MCC stands ready to assist with the proposed Council's important work in whatever ways we can.

Rooted in Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, the Maine Council of Churches' mission is to inspire congregations and persons of faith to unite in good works that build a culture of justice, compassion and peace. For nearly two decades MCC, representing its nine denomination members, has been engaging members of the faith community and the communities in which they live in educational programs and activities to protect and restore the web of life/the Creation, of which we are all a part.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this testimony.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board of Directors,

*Rev. Sue Gabrielson*

Rev. Sue Gabrielson  
Executive Director

Anne D. Burt  
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