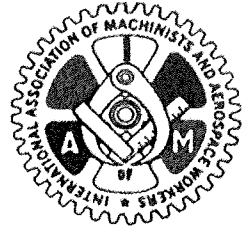


Maine Lobstering Union

Local 207



Senator Baker, Representative Kumiega and members of the Marine Resources Committee. My name is Rock Alley and I am the President of the Maine Lobstering Union, Local 207. I am here today on behalf of the many members of Local 207 to speak in opposition to LD 1016. The fact that lobstermen oppose this bill should in no way be interpreted as a lack of appreciation for the job that our Marine Patrol Officers do on a day to day basis. They work hard to protect the resources that so many of us depend upon to provide for our families and for that we are grateful.

Having said that, we believe that this is an issue of what is fair and what is not. There are many people on a waiting list that is part of an existing system that was designed to make entry into our fishery as fair as possible. To circumvent that system by allowing what this bill proposes just simply is not fair. Without addressing the Limited Entry system as a whole, reviewing its shortcomings and finding solutions for everyone who is affected by it we are doing a great disservice to the future of the Lobster Industry and those of us who depend upon it.

I urge you to vote "ought not to pass" on LD 1016. Thank you for the opportunity to speak here before you today and I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have for me.

Rock Alley

President, IMLU Local 207