

Senator Baker, Representative Kumeiga, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Marine Resources Committee;

My name is Virginia Olsen, I'm from Deer Isle-Stonington and I am a member of the IAM Maine Lobstering Union. I'm here today to speak in opposition to LD1233. However, some of what is contained in this bill I have no issues with. I do not support section 3.12 MRSA 6306, Sub-1 and I'm hoping that you will share some of my concern. I want patrol to have all of the tools they need to be able to do their job effectively. None of us want anyone committing flagrant and egregious violations out on the water, not Lobstermen, not Marine Patrol and not DMR. But to ask Lobstermen to give up our Constitutional rights to protect the resource through enforcement is wrong, just plain wrong. You must obtain a warrant for the inclusion of covert electronic surveillance prior to its installation. From what I can understand this is a process problem, and needs a process fix. The bill before you does not do that, it violates our rights instead of fixing the issue at hand. I am saying the process is the problem and this LD does not solve that, unfortunately it creates more of a problem by violating our 4th amendment rights. By passing this bill that has no constitutionality we will be giving our rights away. Let's spend our time and our tax dollars doing it the right way, by fixing the process problem.