

Testimony in Opposition to Current Draft L.D. 1233
4/29/2015

As a representative speaking on behalf of the IMLU Local 207 a.k.a. the Maine Lobstering Union, we feel that over 90% of our fellow fishermen are honest. To suggest that we should relinquish our 4th amendment right and yield to the scope of this Bill makes me wonder how we are perceived by our neighbors. It sounds like Big Brother might be watching us without us knowing it. How indignant would the average citizen become if this Bill applied to them?

If a certified specialist has the time to sneak this covert surveillance equipment onto our property, then they have the time to obtain a warrant under the existing laws.

I want to take the time to compliment the warden service. In my area, they have done an impressive job resolving sensitive issues in a professional manner. In general, I'm confident that fishermen and wardens predominately are like-minded and embrace effective regulations. The illusion of distrust that this Bill embodies would likely drive a wedge between the mutual respect that exists between the two groups. If complications exist in current enforcement measures, the Union would be more than happy to meet with the wardens to help resolve issues.

On behalf of Lobstering Union 207, I feel that this Bill is demoralizing, projects a negative view and distorts the image of fishers and wardens that represent the lobster industry.

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