

I am here to urge you to support LD 620/HP0448. Currently Maine has weak laws for land-based aquaculture licensing and ZERO regulations to manage this form of industrial agriculture. Unless we strengthen laws and create necessary regulations that will protect Maine's bays and estuaries, the cumulative impacts from ever-increasing pollution will damage, if not destroy, the ecosystems that both land and marine life depend on.

LD 620 will give the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry the authority to require the DEP and DMR to thoroughly examine and evaluate industrial agriculture (i.e. land-based aquaculture) licensing applications. We MUST consider the environmental impacts FIRST and project applications for this kind of industry AFTERWARDS.

The effluent pouring into our bays from proposed land-based industrial fish factories has the very real potential to disrupt and destroy the already precarious health of the entire ocean. Science tells us that unless we, as a species, do the hard work to reverse the trend of using the ocean as a dumping ground, there will be catastrophic consequences for the planet.

Please support this bill to protect our land, our water and our bays, and be an example of mindful stewardship of Maine's natural environment.

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