

Senator Dill, Representative Hickman and Members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee. My name is Bethany Allgrove and I am a mother of 3 from Lincolnville. We love Lincolnville beach and are concerned about the water quality of the Bay.

Please hear us today. Our current rules, regulations and standards are no longer acceptable. The standards that we have today have not provided adequate protection for our waters and wildlife. This is evident in the vast amount of acreage that is closed to shell fishing along Maine's coasts and the loss of our native and wild species that used to fill our oceans.

<https://www.maine.gov/dmr/shellfish-sanitation-management/closures/pollution.html>

LD 620 will help to provide the careful consideration of the effluent that is being introduced into the Bay. Taking into account the cumulative total activity in a body of water is the only standard that makes sense. How else can we ensure that we will not continue on the dangerous trajectory of today's standards and the inevitable destruction that we are already experiencing in Maine today?

Land based aquaculture is a new industry and with it should come new critical and careful considerations.

You, our legislators, are the only protection that we have in this very unbalanced interest for our natural resources. Without the money and power of the Industries, we must rely on our Representatives to rule in favor of the will of the people. We and our future generations can no longer play by the rules; the rules need to change.

Thank you. I am available for any questions.

Bethany Allgrove