

CIANBRO

Testimony regarding LD-1287, “An Act To Protect the Penobscot River and Penobscot Bay from Mercury Contamination” April 11, 2019

Senator Carson, Representative Tucker and respective members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Tim C. Walton, I am a resident of Livermore and I am here on behalf of CIANBRO in opposition to LD-1287.

CIANBRO is a 100% employee owned construction and construction services firm headquartered in Pittsfield, Maine, routinely operating in over forty States, employing nearly 4,500 team members; over 1,300 of which are Maine residents.

Taking a portion of Penobscot Bay out of commercial use as a result of a presumed belief that there potentially might be a possible threat of elevated mercury conditions seems like a solution in search of a problem. At the very least, perhaps a premature course of action.

Also of concern is the timing of this proposal. Why now? It seems odd that such a prescribed area of the Penobscot waterway would be targeted by legislative action. If the intent of this legislation, in part or in whole, is to hinder the ability of pending aquaculture initiatives to move forward, we would suggest that targeting a specific industry is not a direction the State should be taking. The message that sends to the development community would have a chilling effect and would certainly be considered a deterrent to future quality, growth opportunities for Maine.

Our State’s working waters are exceptionally important resources and symbols of our heritage; both reasons why they should always be protected, without question. That said, we don’t believe this legislation is necessary or warranted at this time.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our position on this matter.