

Roebuck, Caleb

From: Kathryn Shagas <kathryn@kshagasdesign.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2019 12:57 PM
To: Roebuck, Caleb
Cc: Herbig, Erin; Dodge, Jan; Linda Buckmaster
Subject: (L.D. 1287) Bill "An Act To Protect the Penobscot River and Penobscot Bay from Mercury Contamination" (HP0929)

Senator Carson, Representative Tucker and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

I'm writing to express my strong support of bills (L.D. 1287) Bill "An Act To Protect the Penobscot River and Penobscot Bay from Mercury Contamination" (HP0929).

Penobscot Bay is THE source of livelihood for Maine's lobster industry and other fisheries. It also is the reason for a good percentage of tourism in Maine. The bay is struggling to recover from pollution, poultry processing, sewage treatment plants, chemical and industrial waste.

Mercury in the upper bay from the former HoltraChem plant is a powder keg of toxicity and must have every precaution and testing mechanism possible to avoid mistakes that could cause serious additional damage.

Currently the Island Institute reports that most of the songbirds in the marsh and along the lower Penobscot River, such as Nelson's sparrows and red-winged blackbirds, have levels of mercury high enough to impair reproduction. The black ducks that spend the winter in the estuary are too toxic to eat. A 12.5-square-mile area in the upper bay remains closed to lobster and crab fishing.

As you know, the Gulf of Maine is the fastest changing body of water due to climate change in the world. These bills will help the largest estuary in the Gulf to have a fighting chance.

Thanks for your consideration of this vital issue for all those who live, work and appreciate Penobscot Bay.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Shagas
Belfast