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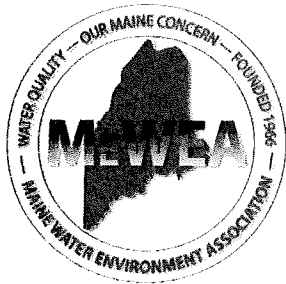
Aubrey Strause
Verdant Water, PLLC

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Dustin Price
South Berwick, ME



Maine Water Environment Association

Local Government Center

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March 11, 2015

Senator Linda L. Baker, Chair

Representative Walter A. Kumiega III, Chair

Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources

100 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Subject: LD 493, "An Act to Create the Ocean Acidification Council"

Dear Sen. Baker, Rep. Kumiega, and Members of the Committee on Marine Resources,

The Maine Water Environment Association (MEWEA) is comprised of over 600 operators, scientists, technicians, regulators, engineers, equipment manufacturers, and other environmental professionals who are dedicated to maintaining the quality of Maine's valuable water resources.

This testimony is offered in support of **LD 493** ("An Act to Create the Ocean Acidification Council"). We understand that Representative Michael Devin has developed an amendment that recommends changes and clarifications to the bill, including the addition of MEWEA as a member of the Council. MEWEA supports LD 493, so amended, and would recommend approval of the amended version of LD 493 by this Committee. This Committee and the Ocean Acidification Commission should be applauded on the incredible effort its members invested in preparing the December 2014 report, its leadership in engaging the public and other stakeholders on this topic and thinking globally but acting locally.

MEWEA appreciates the opportunity to be a member of the Ocean Acidification Council, and we look forward to moving forward with efforts to understand the contribution of causes of ocean acidification in Maine, monitor the causes and impacts of the phenomenon, and develop cost-effective prevention and mitigation alternatives. We believe our participation provides strong benefit, as our professionals are highly knowledgeable about wastewater and stormwater management, we have strong connections to Maine's municipalities, and we actively provide education and outreach to residents on the value of clean water and the effort involved in maintaining that quality.

Please contact me at (207) 641-7704 or aubrey@verdantwater.com to discuss further how a representative from MEWEA will play a role in the Council.

Sincerely,

Aubrey L. Strause, P.E.
Past President, MEWEA (2014)