

**STATE OF MAINE**

—  
**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD**

**TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO**  
—

**JOINT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE OUTRAGE OF THE  
MAINE LEGISLATURE REGARDING THE DECISION BY  
WHOLE FOODS MARKET, BLUE APRON HOLDINGS AND  
HELLOFRESH GROUP TO DISCONTINUE SELLING MAINE  
LOBSTER**

**WHEREAS**, Whole Foods Market has announced that it will stop selling Gulf of Maine lobster in its more than 500 stores nationwide; and

**WHEREAS**, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group have made similar announcements; and

**WHEREAS**, the announcements were in response to a statement by the London-based Marine Stewardship Council that it is suspending the certification of sustainability for the Gulf of Maine lobster fishery, due to concerns over harm to the North Atlantic right whale; and

**WHEREAS**, notwithstanding the statement by the Marine Stewardship Council, there has never been a North Atlantic right whale death attributed to Maine lobster gear; and

**WHEREAS**, Maine lobster harvesters have a 150-year history of sustainability, and Maine's lobstering community has consistently demonstrated its commitment to protecting North Atlantic right whales; and

**WHEREAS**, the Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative has stated that the Marine Stewardship Council's suspension of the Gulf of Maine lobster fishery's certification of sustainability is due to flaws with the National Marine Fisheries Service's regulatory plan and not due to actions by the lobster harvesters themselves; and

**WHEREAS**, the suspension of the lobster fishery's certification of sustainability and the refusal of Whole Foods Market, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group to continue to sell Gulf of Maine lobster harm the livelihoods of hard-working men and women up and down Maine's coast; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to express our disappointment over the outrageous decision by Whole Foods Market, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group to discontinue the sale of Gulf of Maine lobster; our belief that the Marine Stewardship Council, Whole Foods Market, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group are following misguided recommendations rather than science; our hope that the Marine Stewardship Council, Whole Foods Market, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group will reconsider their potentially devastating decision; and our hope that the public will refuse to patronize Whole Foods Market, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group until those retailers recognize that their concerns regarding the danger of Maine lobstering to the North Atlantic right whale are unfounded and flawed and that their refusal to sell lobster from the Gulf of Maine based on these unfounded and flawed concerns

maligns the men and women in Maine engaged in the lobster industry and Whole Foods Market, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group resume selling lobster from the Gulf of Maine; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the corporate offices of Whole Foods Market, Blue Apron Holdings and HelloFresh Group and to the Marine Stewardship Council.