

Rachel Herbener
Belfast
LD 586

Please support LD 586 "An act to Protect Maine Fisheries".

Every day there is an environmental catastrophe and most are preventable. In February there was the toxic East Palestine train derailment. Also in February a 500,000 crude oil spill from the Keystone Pipeline. Clearly the corporations responsible for these disasters can not or choose not to prioritize safety. This is why citizens must depend on our government to safeguard our future.

I support locally owned non-polluting aquaculture. It provides healthy food and a healthy local economy. Massive, foreign-owned fish factories are quite another matter. What is the benefit for Mainers? These operations spew warm, nitrogen rich effluent into our fragile ocean. The amount of electricity (and backup coal generators) will make it tremendously difficult if not impossible for Maine to reduce our CO2 emissions. Most of the fish will be shipped out of state, salmon is too pricey for most Mainers. Profits will also be shipped out of the state, indeed out of the U.S. As for jobs - we risk losing jobs, not gaining. The fish factory operations are highly mechanized so few jobs will be provided. Established working waterfront operations (lobster, shellfish, seaweed and plankton) cannot survive if we pollute and heat the ocean shoreline.

Please look at the big picture for Maine and the planet.

Thank-you.

Sincerely,
Rachel Herbener