

Ryan Saul  
Blackstonepoint Oysters LLC  
LD 586

Hello my name is Ryan Saul of Phippsburg, I am currently an owner of a small scale oyster farm and manage another small farm in Damariscotta. I have lived in Maine for 10 years attending a state school and stayed in the state for aquaculture. This growing and profitable industry is good for Maine economically and environmentally. I am attesting that Bill LD 586 is bad for this industry as a whole and therefore bad for our state.

This bill LD 586 aims to put restrictions on oyster seed hatcheries and would potentially cripple our industry being that they are the foundation of it. Seed hatcheries allow oyster farmers to produce oysters at a profitable scale and without them we are not able to plan the amount of product to expect in the future. One bad year of attempting to collect spat could put a farm out of business and take away jobs from young Mainers such as myself.

Our farm in the near future plans to create a facility to help us grow and create jobs. The zero impact mandate holds us at an impossible standard that no wastewater treatment plants in the state have to follow. There are already ME DEP standards for discharge and impact that are in place for us to follow and are stringent.

I oppose this bill based on the fact that it will create unrealistic standards that other industries do not have to follow, and could ruin the progress of our economically and environmentally sound industry that our state needs!

-Ryan Saul

Phippsburg Resident  
Farm Manager Blackstone Point Oysters LLC  
Brightwater Oysters (owner)