



Maine Lobstering Union

Local 207



211 Bar Harbor Rd., Unit 2, Trenton, ME 04605

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and honorable members of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement, and Business.

My Name is Virginia Olsen, I am a 5th generation lobsterman, the Organizer/Business Representative for the Maine Lobstering Union, and the Political Director for Lobster 207, a wholesale/retail lobster business owned by our members.

I am pleased to be here today **in support of LD 1815**: An Act to Protect Maine's Consumers by Establishing an Abuse of Dominance Right of Action and Requiring Notification of Mergers.

This bill could help improve and give much-needed relief to the Maine Lobster Industry. We have been losing dockside infrastructure for years, mom-and-pop docks have all but disappeared. Why is this? Large out-of-state corporations and corporations from other countries are purchasing Maine's waterfront buying stations to garner lobster directly from the boat instead of supporting Maine retail/wholesale lobster dealers. When corporations purchase a Maine lobster facility, they leave the business name as is and hire the previous owners to continue day-to-day operations paying them a lump sum payment in two to five years, making it very difficult to see not only the sale but the current corporations that own them. LD 1815 would require these businesses to provide notification and a report of the merger. We have foreign companies that already claim to own over 50% of the lobsters caught and landed in Maine. This makes it nearly impossible for Mainers to harvest lobster at a fair wage and gives the corporations a monopoly with little to no competition. As it is, Canada subsidizes the lobster production covering most of a company's expenses for a period of time, this allows them to push products back into the USA at a substantially lower cost than our Maine Lobster dealers. We cannot compete financially this way.

By law, Canadian freight trucks are allowed to come into our state, stop to collect products at one facility, and return to Canada. This is not the common practice; they go from facility to facility and then return violating cabotage rules.

Maine needs LD 1815 to help us stay competitive in the lobster industry. I hope you will vote LD 1815 Aught to pass.

Virginia Olsen

Virginia Olsen
Lobster 207
LD 1815

I will be in person for testimony tomorrow.