



Town of Brunswick, Maine

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131st Maine State Legislature

Testimony in Support

LD2162 An Act Regarding the Homestead Property Tax Exemption and the Property Value Reassessment Process

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, Distinguished Members of the Taxation Committee,

My name is Daniel Devereaux and I'm the Coastal Resource Manager for the Town of Brunswick. My work brings me in contact with fishermen, aquaculturist, and other water dependent businesses on a routine basis. As you have heard the post covid housing prices have skyrocketed this along with the recent property revaluation is impacting many residents but none more disproportionately than the water dependent businesses, fishermen and aquaculturist and those whose livelihoods depend on the water and having access to it.

I'm writing in support of LD 2162 "*An Act Regarding the Homestead Property Tax Exemption and the Property Value Reassessment Process*", Brunswick has a robust marine shellfish economy and access to the shore and supporting working waterfronts are critical to this heritage industry. Each year more coastal access is being lost due to changes in ownership and usage.

Tax incentives, like those built into LD2162, can play a crucial role in supporting and promoting Brunswick's local marine economy and most vulnerable homeowners. LD2162 does this by providing tax breaks or incentives for businesses and personal properties owners that contribute access to the water resources. This could include owner operated business where a fishermen may operate out of their primary residence or a waterfront owner offering a path to the shore through their property.

In addition, tax incentives can encourage the development of infrastructure that supports the local marine economy. This involves providing tax deductions for businesses that invest in the construction or renovation of docks, fishing piers, or processing facilities. By incentivizing the development of these essential infrastructure elements, the Town of Brunswick can help create a thriving marine economy that provides jobs and economic opportunities for the community.

Furthermore. By offering these tax credits Brunswick can foster innovation and drive the growth of the local marine economy. Tax incentives can be a powerful tool for supporting the local marine economy in Brunswick. By providing tax breaks we can sustain existing working waterfront infrastructure and foster a more resilient and sustainable marine economy that benefits our community, fishermen, and the blue economy.

Respectfully Submitted