

Dear Sen. Rotundo, Rep. Sachs, and distinguished members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs:

I am writing to express my support for LD 2225, "An Act to Provide Funding to Rebuild Infrastructure Affected by Extreme Inland and Coastal Weather Events."

My lobstering business was hit hard during the January storms. The wharf where I store all of my gear (owned by my in-laws) was completely destroyed and much of our gear lost. We have recovered what we can, but have lost about 50% of our gear, which was damaged beyond repair or swept into the ocean. This is a major financial hit for my business, and something I know countless fishermen are experiencing up and down the coast. What's more, the infrastructure my business relies on is gone. I have to figure out somewhere else to store my gear, and will have to travel farther to offload traps at the town wharf and then trailer them to my house (which is inland). All of this will be an added burden and expense for my business. Furthermore, the town wharf in Five Islands where I keep my skiff was also damaged during the storms. While the town has worked fast to address the damage, it was still a major hit for the lobstermen in our area.

Fishermen have suffered greatly from the January storms, and we will continue to suffer if we can't rebuild and recoup some of the costs associated with rebuilding infrastructure and replacing gear. I won't start lobstering again until May, and quite honestly I don't know how I will manage to get my business up and running from where I stand right now.

Please approve LD 2225 so we can begin to rebuild and recover.

Thank you,

Chris Jamison
Commercial Fisherman, Georgetown