

Ira Miller
Tenants Harbor
LD 2225

Dear Appropriations and Financial Committee,

I am writing to you express my support of LD 2225 An Act to provide Funding to Rebuild Infrastructure Affected by Extreme Inland and Coastal Weather Events which seeks to allocate \$50,000,000 to the Department of Transportation's Infrastructure Adaptation Fund. I fish out of the communities of Matinicus as well as Tenants Harbor, Maine. I fish for lobsters around Matinicus Island, I also fish for menhaden and scallops out of Tenants Harbor currently. I hold permits and licenses to fish for groundfish, shrimp (when available), crabs and herring. My family, the cooperative as well as number my community members also harvest many of the same species as I do. There are also a fair number of people in our area that are employed either directly or as support services for the fishing fleet in our area.

The January storms had severe impacts on the working waterfront in our area as well as the rest of the coast of Maine. In Tenants Harbor there were multiple wharves that received major damage, or were totally destroyed. The wharf from which I fish from in Tenants Harbor received minimal damage compared to most of the wharves in our harbor as when we rebuilt the wharf about twenty years ago we raised it due to lessons learned from the storm of February 1978. That being said there is more to be done to properly prepare this wharf for these types of storms into the future, such as rebuilding of the crib work at the end of the wharf which had some damage from the storm and should be "beefed up" which would substantially increase the structural integrity of the most exposed end of the finger pier acting as a virtual anchor for the whole end of the wharf. My wharf on Matinicus also had some amount of storm damage such as cross bracing, pilings and parted off chains to hold the wharf down in case of an uplifting sea happens that will need to be replaced this year. There was at least one other wharf lost to the sea out there as well as major structural damage to a large shorefront building that has been there for some 200 plus years. The shorefront erosion in both harbors was extreme also. This disaster has had a huge impact on fishing families and local working waterfront businesses. Currently there is no where to turn for them as there aren't any resources available to help them not only rebuild the structures, but to also just as importantly to prepare them for the future to minimize damages, for these situations are certain to happen again.

The passage of LD 2225 is a crucial first step to bringing stability to the coastal seafood communities that have been a driving force in Maine's economy for well over 250 years. The working waterfront is what allows fishermen access to and from the water, which in turn allows Maine to share its iconic seafood as well as its beautiful coastline with the rest of the world.

These are just a few reasons that I urge you to support LD 2225 as a first step to maintaining Maines fishing and shorefront heritage now and into the future.

Sincerely, Ira (Tad) Miller
F/V Mallery Sky
F/V Julie Ann