



LOCAL LODGE S-89
P.O. Box 481, Bath, Maine 04530

DISTRICT LODGE 4
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS & AEROSPACE WORKERS

Carol L. Sanborn, President
E-mail: csanborn61900@roadrunner.com
Cell: (207) 313-0043

Testimony of Carol L. Sanborn, President IAMAW Local Lodge S-89

In support of LD 2275: An Act To Ensure That Rules Regarding the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission are Major Substantive Rules

Senator Reny, Representative Hepler, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Carol Sanborn. I am a resident of the Town of Dresden and President of Machinists' Union Local S-89 which has nine individual bargaining units across four counties. Additionally, I have a significant personal connection to the Town of Vinalhaven which is the home of one of Maine's largest lobster fishing fleets.

LD 2275 has been proposed to help Maine's fishing men and women. It's no secret that this industry is suffering under the crushing weight of various regulations while attempting to adjust to devastation wrought by climate change. Currently, the Department of Marine Resources holds occasional regional informational meetings (to which the public is invited) where rule changes and proposed rule changes are announced. The actual practice has typically been to inform of changes and then to invite comment. It is believed by many in our fishing communities that comments and observations made at these meetings do not influence the decision-making process—that it is simply an opportunity to float opinions which will be forgotten as soon as the meeting ends.

Under the current approach, fishing men and women do not feel heard and have lost faith in the DMR meetings as an avenue for communicating effectively. Frankly, these meetings have become a waste of time for people with limited resources. This is reflected in current low meeting attendance. The low attendance is not due to lack of interest, but rather a lack of faith in the process. Those governed by these rules understand they do not have a real voice under the current system. A "meeting" is not a "public hearing."

A simple change in the description of rules adopted by the Department of Marine Resources (with regard to decisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission) will allow those residents most affected by these rules the opportunity for real input directly to this Committee. By labeling them "major substantive" changes, they will be brought before this Committee and that will afford us all the ability to be heard in a well-documented manner before decisions are made.

I encourage you to vote ought-to-pass on LD 2275. Thank you.