

Testimony in Support of LD 401

An Act to Support Removal of Overboard Discharge Systems

**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
February 24, 2025**

Honorable Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

I am writing to express my support for **LD 401**, titled "*An Act to Support Removal of Overboard Discharge Systems*." My grandfather has lived in Five Island for his entire life, and his property is one of the last family-owned working waterfronts in Georgetown. He has a licensed overboard discharge (OBD) system which has been in place for over six decades. The high cost of removing this system and replacing it with an alternative is not feasible for my grandfather, or for many family-owned working waterfronts. Access to funding to support the removal of OBDs helps to maintain working waterfronts while also addressing water quality issues that impact surrounding businesses and industries, such as the wild harvest shellfish industry and growing aquaculture industry.

LD 401 updates existing regulations to better incentivize OBD removal, improve site evaluation options, and increase available funding. This bill will help property owners who can't afford the cost of replacing an OBD, and by doing so supports the resilience of coastal communities and ecosystems.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.

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