

Maxwell Burtis
Bombazine Oyster Company
LD 1664

Dear Members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to LD 1664 – An Act to Repeal the Dirigo Business Incentives Program.

I own Bombazine Oyster Company, in Brunswick Maine. I can speak firsthand to how essential programs like Dirigo are for small, low-margin businesses like mine. Oyster farming requires significant upfront capital investment, long time horizons before returns, and slim margins that make scaling extremely difficult without targeted support.

The Dirigo Incentives Program is one of the few tools we have to offset these challenges and move toward greater efficiency, job creation, and environmental sustainability. My business is working hard to innovate with solar-powered, labor-saving equipment that could transform the way shellfish are harvested in Maine, but without programs like Dirigo, accessing the funding to test and scale these technologies becomes much harder.

Repealing this program would not only harm small aquaculture businesses like mine, but it would also slow progress toward more resilient and sustainable working waterfronts.