

***An Act to Create a Fund to Spread Awareness of Maine's Working Waterfronts***

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development  
April 9, 2025

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development:

My name is Jessica Joyce, and I own small business in Freeport, Tidal Bay Consulting. I have spent over 20 years working in public policy focused on fisheries policy, coastal community climate adaptation, and working waterfront. **I am writing to support LD 1245.**

Over the past several years, I worked on several grants and contracts providing direct technical assistance to, and resources for, public and private owners of working waterfront. Due to changes in sea levels, shifts in fisheries distribution, and an evolving marine economy, there is a need for technical assistance to municipalities and wharf owners, who are often limited in capacity to fundraise for, and manage these projects. These projects range from general infrastructure maintenance and rebuilding after storms, to comprehensive planning, inventorying and permitting. Having a standing fund for towns and regional planning organizations to support technical assistance for these initiatives is a priority to preserve working waterfront, along with funding for the implementation of these projects.

In addition, having access to funding to create informational materials to provide education and outreach materials and/or plan events to help inform Maine's residents and tourists about the importance of preserving (and coexisting with) the working waterfront. The Maine Coast Fishermen's Association has partnered with several organizations and municipalities to create a brochure, referred to as the "[Scuttlebutt](#)", to educate residents on how to live in a working waterfront town. Every coastal town could benefit from a similar public awareness campaign to support our blue economy.

If enacted and implemented, LD 1245 will serve a critical need for the fishing and aquaculture industries in Maine and our marine economy, both to help community members understand working waterfront and to provide low or no-cost technical assistance to municipalities.

Thank you for consideration of this testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jessica G. Joyce". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jessica Gribbon Joyce