

Matt Gilley
Harpwell
LD 1722

Good afternoon Senator Tepler and Representative Hepler and distinguished members of the marine resource committee. My name is Matt Gilley and I serve as the zone f council representative for Cundys harbor. I am writing in opposition of ld 1722. This bill essentially gives a rubber stamp for experimental and LPAs to become standard leases and eliminates the public process that exists now. In the town I live in we have a committee that works with the harbor master to help site leases where they will be lathe least disruptive while still being productive. This has been an effective process and we have use this to sometimes grant leases on a temporary basis to see how a site will work. This is done under the guise that if the experimental lease has issues we can address them before it becomes a standard lease. This removes that process and expedites it for the lease holder leaving other ocean users no course for input.

Aquaculture is already extremely different from all other fisheries in the fact they own the area they operate. This leads to potential conflicts with other long time ocean uses. No other fishery can own the water. The experimental and LPA process has allowed us to alleviate these conflicts before they become bigger issues. If this is approved it will lead to increased conflicts as well as less leases being issued. If we don't have the ability to see how the experiment or LPAs work it would not be in the towns best interest to approve them. I urge you to vote ought not pass on ld 1722.