

**Jay McCreight**  
**Harpswell**

**Testimony in support of LD 1858, An Act to Promote Local Seafood in  
Schools**

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy, Esteemed Members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, I am Jay McCreight of Harpswell, testifying in support of **LD 1858, An Act to Promote Local Seafood in Schools**. I want to thank the sponsor, President Daughtry, for putting this innovative bill forward.

As a former two-term House chair of the Maine Legislature's Marine Resources Committee, a resident of Harpswell with our diverse fishing community, and as a current member of Harpswell's Aquaculture Working Group, I support this proposal wholeheartedly.

Harpswell, a coastal community with 216 miles of coastline, is known for its rich maritime fabric that includes its working waterfront and many who make their living in and on the water in a variety of fisheries.

The fund proposed in LD 1858 has many benefits. It not only supports the school administrative unit purchasing seafood directly from a commercial fisheries license or lease holder; it helps make it possible to provide fresh, healthy seafood for our children and youth; provides the opportunity for seafood training for food service employees; supports our fishing heritage and culture, and, importantly, supports our fishing industries and those who work in them, whether directly in fishing and farming or in supportive industries.

This proposal is a win-win on multiple levels and I urge you to support it.

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