

Colleen Brown  
Whiting  
LD 2069

To the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government,

I am writing in support of LD 2069, An Act Designating July 21st as Maine Commercial Fishing Remembrance Day.

Commercial fishing is not just an industry in Maine. It is a way of life, particularly in coastal and Downeast communities. I am the mother of a local fisherman, and the risks of this work are not abstract to me. They are real, daily concerns for families who send their loved ones out onto the water knowing that every trip carries danger.

Fishing is one of the most dangerous professions in the country, and many Maine families have lost fathers, sons, brothers, and crew members to the sea. In small towns, those losses are felt deeply and collectively. These are not statistics. They are empty seats at kitchen tables, children growing up without parents, and communities forever changed.

Designating a day of remembrance is a simple but meaningful way for the State of Maine to recognize the risks these men and women take and to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. This bill does not create bureaucracy or cost. It creates recognition, respect, and visibility for an industry that has shaped Maine for generations.

I urge the committee to support LD 2069 and to give Maine's fishing families the acknowledgement they deserve.

Thank you for considering my testimony.