

Cameron Barner  
Freeport  
LD 299

My name is Cameron Barner, and I own Love Point Oysters, a small oyster farm in Freeport. I'm writing in strong support of LD 299.

Aquaculture is farming — we just do it on the water. Like our colleagues on land, we operate low-margin, asset-heavy businesses. Boats, cages, seed, moorings, and sorting equipment require significant capital investment long before we sell a single oyster. Access to grants and low-interest loans isn't a luxury for operations like mine — it's the difference between growing and standing still.

All this infrastructure also depends heavily on affordable access to the waterfront itself, which is under enormous pressure from residential conversion. LD 299 creates a sustainable funding source that helps farms like mine invest in that infrastructure, stay competitive, and keep our coast working. It does this without imposing any new taxes on Mainers.

I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 299. Thank you for your time and consideration.