

Abigail Barrows
Stonington
LD 299

I am an oyster and seaweed farmer. Aquaculture is farming, we just do it in the water instead of on land like our colleagues in agriculture and forestry.

LD 299 is NOT asking for any new taxes or fees to be imposed on Maine citizens, it is merely shifting some money internally that the state already collects.

Maine's working landscapes and waterfronts need a sustainable long term fund that supports infrastructure investments in their communities. These sectors currently do not have access to this type of low cost investment capital and we compete against other states and countries that do.

Our working landscapes and waterfronts are being lost due to conversion to residential use at the fastest rate in Maine history. Those working farms, forests, and sea farms are one of the most important and iconic parts of the Maine image. Their preservation is critical to the state's tourism industry which is the state's largest economic driver. The best way to preserve the Maine "brand" is to ensure that working farms, forests, and waterfronts can remain viable and competitive businesses. LD 299 helps do that.