



**Testimony of the Island Institute in Support of LD 122, An Act to Authorize the Efficiency
Maine Trust to Establish a Program to Support the Uptake of Medium-duty and Heavy-duty
Zero-emission Vehicles...**

February 2nd, 2023

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology, my name is Nick Battista, and I offer this testimony on behalf of the Island Institute in support of LD 122 and more broadly, establishing a pilot program to support the increased adoption of medium and heavy duty zero emissions vehicles by Maine businesses.

The Island Institute is a 40-year-old nonprofit organization based in Rockland, Maine. We work to sustain Maine's island and coastal communities. The Island Institute's community development work focuses on the marine economy, climate and energy pilots, small businesses, education, and leadership.

According to data from SEAMaine, the seafood industry generates \$3.2 billion a year for the State and supports about 33,000 jobs as a sector. However, with the Gulf of Maine warming rapidly, the natural resource base for this sector is shifting, changing, and volatile. That makes it more challenging for the businesses that support this sector to be profitable. The Island Institute has been supporting seafood-related businesses with strategies to adapt to these changes. One approach we see some businesses employ is reducing their dependence on fossil fuels by implementing clean energy projects that help control their costs and lower their carbon footprint.

We partnered with Luke's Lobster, a vertically integrated Maine based seafood company, to undertake a groundbreaking assessment of the greenhouse gas emissions of their supply chain. The study showed that the lobster fishery has a relatively low carbon footprint compared with other animal protein production—2.89 lbs of greenhouse gas emissions for every pound of lobster sourced from Luke's Lobster which compares favorably to animal protein, including beef (60 lbs emissions per lb of protein), lamb (24 lbs), pork (7 lbs), and chicken (6 lbs).

Transportation accounts for 7.9% of these emissions. Including zero emissions medium and heavy duty vehicles in the transportation supply chain will help further reduce the emissions associated with the lobster industry while building the resilience of seafood businesses. The technology is available, and we hear from our partners in the field who want to make this switch that support and incentives are needed to assist with start-up costs and infrastructure for early adopters, as well as demonstrate how these vehicles fit into logistic supply chains for perishable products. It is also worth considering whether the pilot could include zero emissions vessels as well, given that 61% of the emissions in Luke's supply chain come from on water activities. I strongly encourage you to move forward with this pilot.