

Good afternoon,
Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich and members of the joint standing committee on the Environment and Natural Resources Committee.

My name is Owen Moody, and I have lobstered for 25 years. I am clammer and selectman in Roque Bluffs.

I am here today to testify in support of LD 508.

I thank Senator Grohoski for bringing this bill forward. I had given up completely on the state taking any interest in protecting the ocean about 5 years ago.

For those of us who make our living on the water and support our family and others in the wild harvest - this is long overdue.

As someone who has tried for years to get the attention of regulators of the water - this is a good step forward.

I have watched the growing sea lice problem near the farmed fish and the net pens.

The sea lice don't only - literally - eat the fish alive - the sea lice attacks sea urchins.

I harvest sea urchins and while I am sure some of the decrease is due to climate change Some of it is also due to factory farming on the water.

This bill which calls for a study group that extends beyond the aquaculture lobby is a good start to talk about what we are seeing on the ocean. We need to have this conversation before we lose it all.