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*Testimony of Nina Milliken presenting*

**LD 153, An Act to Prohibit the Unauthorized Mooring of Watercraft**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife*

Hello Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts, and friends and colleagues on the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. I am Nina Milliken and I love that I get to represent the beautiful coastal communities of Blue Hill, Brooksville, Castine, Sedgwick, Surry and Trenton. Today I am glad to present to you **LD 153, An Act to Prohibit the Unauthorized Mooring of Watercraft**.

Many of the members of my communities work and recreate on the ocean and we pay to install and maintain moorings to tie our boats to at the end of the day. Occasionally, and more so recently, when we return to our moorings, we find someone else's boat tied to them. It presents a challenge for everyone, but especially for folks who earn their living on the water. Presently, there is no good mechanism to help in this situation, but it has become enough of a problem that our prosecutor in Hancock County has decided that he will start charging a Class C theft against folks who commit this offense. That feels a bit extreme.

This bill would establish a new Class E offense for anyone who does this. Class E is our lowest level criminal offense. This would allow the owner of the mooring to have the other vessel towed. Baked into the language of the bill is an allowance made in situations that are emergencies reported to law enforcement.

While I am typically opposed to the creation of new criminal offenses, I think this offers mooring owners a tool to alleviate this problem and it provides a more reasonable avenue for prosecutors than a felony level prosecution. You may notice that many of my cosponsors are from the Marine Resources Committee. I anticipated that the bill would end up in the Marine Resources Committee, likely because when I picture a mooring, I picture the ocean. But I am grateful to have the opportunity to be here before IFW to present the bill. I appreciate your time and consideration and am happy to answer any questions that you might have.