



Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

April 12, 2021

RE: LD 1161, An Act Concerning Marina-based Restaurants in the Shoreland Zone

Dear Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony in opposition to LD 1161, An Act Concerning Marina-based Restaurants in the Shoreland Zone, on behalf of Maine Audubon and our 30,000 members and supporters.

LD 1161 would add “marina-based restaurants” to the list of “functionally water-dependent uses” allowed in the shoreland zone and define “marina-based restaurants”. Maine Audubon opposes this legislation because it would increase the allowed uses in the shoreland zone, an area that is critical for supporting wildlife and clean water.

More animals live where land and water meet than in any other habitat type in Maine—more than 60 species of water-dependent birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles in Maine require shoreland areas for shelter or is a critical part of their life cycle such as feeding or breeding. Limiting development in the shoreland zone can prevent habitat conversion for these species and at the same time, serves to maintain water quality and protect aquatic species.

We appreciate the appeal of marina-based restaurants and that that appeal is often premised on the restaurant’s association with an active marina, however, that appeal is not enough to warrant weakening protections for these critically important areas.

Thank you for the opportunity share our thoughts with the Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eliza Donoghue".

Eliza Donoghue, Esq.
Director of Advocacy