



April 8, 2021

Dear Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and Distinguished Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Grace Olsen and I am the Land Use, Planning & Outreach Coordinator of the Lakes Environmental Association (LEA), which serves the Lake Region of Western Maine and all of Maine's lakes through the Maine Lake Science Center.

Our organization strongly opposes LD 1161: An Act Concerning Marina-based Restaurants in the Shoreland Zone.

Adding marina-based restaurants to the shoreland zone would eliminate setbacks and impervious area requirements for existing marina-restaurants and encourages other marinas in the state to open and run restaurants right on the water. All restaurants, on the water or not, have a large environmental footprint – including parking, wastewater, and trash generation.

Sec.1 38 MRSA §436-A, sub-§6 defines “functionally water-dependent uses” as those that “require, for their primary purpose, location on submerged lands or that require direct access to, or location in, coastal or inland waters and that cannot be located away from these waters.” Restaurants **are not** water dependent uses and **do not** require a location near the water for any function or purpose besides aesthetics and therefore should not be classified as such.

In order to protect and preserve the natural landscape, functionality, and characteristics of Maine's shoreland we ask that you vote “ought not to pass” on LD 1161.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Grace Olsen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "n".

Grace Olsen

Land Use, Planning & Outreach Coordinator

Lakes Environmental Association