

Michele Windsor
Oxford County Soil & Water Conservation District

Dear Members of the Environmental and Natural Resources Committee,
I am writing to express my opposition to LD 1161, "An Act Concerning Marina-based Restaurants in the Shoreland Zone", by including them in the definition of "water-dependent" uses. I feel this would lead to an enormous amount of abuse and pollution, and degradation of our most valuable inland natural resource: our beautiful lakes and ponds.

As a former restaurant owner in the Lakes Region of Maine, I can tell you from personal experience that the restaurant business generates a large amount of waste (visualize dumpsters and vats of kitchen grease). They also require large septic systems to handle heavy public use and wastewater. Some existing marina restaurants are likely already operating with grand-fathered, ancient, and inadequate septic systems.

There is no shortage of fine restaurants in our summer lake vacation areas, and they certainly are ALL "water dependent"; that is, they are dependent on us keeping our lakes and ponds pristine so that they continue to attract summer vacationers. The State should NOT provide marinas with a special "exception" to create restaurants in our Shoreland Zone at the risk of hurting water quality. If anything, restaurants in the Shoreland Zone should be more strictly regulated and scrutinized.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

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