

Martina Witts
Naples, ME

Dear Environmental and Natural Resources Committee members -

I'm writing to object to LD 1161 a bill which would eliminate setbacks and impervious area requirements for restaurants at existing marinas AND would allow existing marinas to open up new restaurants with dining, parking, and buildings 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.

As a resident and property owner of Naples, ME I can see in very real terms the damage this bill would have on the lakes in my community. A bill such as this, I believe, is designed to facilitate the wants of a few special interest land owners to the detriment of the broader public who depend on and deserve clean and protected lakes as the economic driver for the entire state.

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

Sincerely,
Martina Witts