

Matt Gilley  
Harpswell

Good day distinguished members of the EUT committee,  
My name is Matthew Gilley and I'm a lobsterman from Harpswell Maine. I write to you today asking for your support of Id 101. I began my journey different then most fisherman. I started at a young age following in my father's footsteps. I hauled through my childhood in summers and chose to go to college after high school. After spending the better part of six years attaining my accounting degree I realized that wasn't the path for me. I loved the outdoors and spent all my time off enjoying it. Why had I chosen a career behind a desk? Luckily for me I had held onto my lobster license and was able to slowly work my way back into the industry. I had let my tags lapse and spent several years working on the backs of boats and building my tags back up and saving money for a boat. After many years of hard work I had saved enough money and building my tags up I was able to buy a small skiff and go off on my own. Over the past ten years I've built my business up I recently purchased a new 38' boat and a offshore permit as well as my wife and I purchasing our first home in the town I grew up just last week. I have spent the better part of my life building a business and a life here in Maine for my family and myself. All this is about to be uprooted by foreign companies swooping in to grab the millions of dollars in government subsidies because they aren't financially feasible without subsidies. These are science experiments, we have a beautiful gulf of Maine that sustains millions of people with the most sustainable fishery in the world and is home to some very unique life forms. Are we willing to destroy this for foreign companies? What will the 2500' chains with links the size of your truck crush? What birds will be killed because their migration route is disturbed. What whales and marine mammals navigational and communications skills will be jeopardized to sustain large cities by destroying one of the most beautiful environments in the world. This isn't a not in my backyard issue; I would rather have them in my backyard where they can be maintained and do less damage. The reason they aren't at the heads of the harbors we were told in one of the webinars is because "they didn't want to ruin million dollar views". What about destroying a billion dollar industry? You will hear and read thousands of testimonies from people begging for you to listen and preserve our way of life and our environment. I hope you take all this into consideration and truly think this through. I hope the rumor being spread by fellow legislators that this bill is dead on arrival is false and you take the time to take everyone's testimony into consideration before making your decisions.

Thank you,  
Matthew Gilley  
F/V Catherine G