

City of Portland | City Council Kate Snyder, *Mayor*



To: Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

From: Mayor Kate Snyder, City of Portland

Date: 04/11/2023

Re: LD 1286

Testimony in Support of LD 1286 “Resolve, to Establish the Blue Economy Task Force to Support Maine's Emergence as a Center for Blue Economy Innovation and Opportunity in the 21st Century”

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and distinguished members of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business:

I write to you on behalf of the City of Portland’s Legislative/Nominating Committee in Support of LD 1286, Resolve, to Establish the Blue Economy Task Force to Support Maine's Emergence as a Center for Blue Economy Innovation and Opportunity in the 21st Century.

Maine’s marine industries are an iconic foundation of the State’s economic system. Fishing, aquaculture, marine transportation, marine construction, boat building, and vessel repair are critical to both Portland and coastal Maine.

Emerging marine industries and novel applications of processes in the marine environment hold great promise to expand and build on Maine’s maritime heritage. LD 1286’s intent to establish a body with the broad directive to concentrate study and evaluation on identifying opportunities, constraints, and strategies to expand the footprint of these opportunities is laudable and likely overdue.

In recognition of the importance and potential for marine industries, the work of the proposed task force expands opportunities to grow the economy needed to preserve working waterfronts statewide. Given Portland’s commitment to preserving the working waterfront, expansion of new industries to fill space and retain workforce is critical. There is a bright future in our Blue Economy, and we must take the necessary steps to examine how Maine can be a leader in this space.

Thank you for your consideration.