

Philip Demers
Kittery

To all those involved with LD 1146:

As a small farm oyster and scallop grower in Southern Maine, I am completely against the proposed legislation LD 1146. It is already hard enough to not only farm shellfish, but to go through the process of locating sites that are feasible for proper shellfish growth, do not overreach on other fisheries in the area, and meet all the current requirements that DMR has created. The current system Maine has for aquaculture leasing and management is not broken, it actually works great. LD 1146 will make it even harder to continue to grow my small business and eventually break even and gain a profit. I am extremely concerned with and oppose the revocation of aquaculture's exemption to NURPA and site development law as it will all any opponents to require visual impact and alternative site studies.

Again, it is already hard enough to find a site suitable to meet all of DMR's current regulations. The way LD1146 is written will hurt the growth of our industry and will discourage current growers from continuing to invest in our businesses and trying to grow a profitable business. I have been a huge supporter of MAA and all of the efforts Sebastian and the team have put forward to help the industry and Maine find constructive solutions that address all the concerns involved while at the same time allowing our aquaculture industry to keep growing! The current process and rules in our state are some of the best in the country, please don't change them!

Thanks you, Phil Demers -Owner/Farmer
Southern Maine Sea Farms