Alicia Gaiero
Written Testimony against LD1146
For date of April 13, 2021

I, Alicia Gaiero am writing in opposition of LD 1146. At this time I am one of the youngest independent sea farmers in the state at 22 years old and the owner of Nauti Sisters Sea Farm located in Yarmouth, Maine. I have recently graduated with a degree in Environmental Policy and Planning from the University of Maine at Farmington. I have spent my entire life savings investing into my sea farm and this sustainable industry.

While I do believe that there is alway an opportunity for improvement, I do not believe the current leasing and management system is broken. It would put not only my business but many other businesses whom I work with cooperatively at risk if there is legal grounds for opposition to require visual impact and additional site studies. I do not believe any sea farmer has any intention of causing more impact than is required to successfully operate their business.

There has been significant effort in diversifying Maine's aquaculture industry and one of our strengths is the diversity of farm size. I am able to operate a viable business at a very small scale, while also limiting risk due to the mix in businesses. I can work cooperatively with others to ensure not only my own success but others as well. I started my business just prior to Covid-19 turning all of our world upside down and it would be devastating to our industry to limit the diversity that makes us so strong. I support regulatory oversight and protecting Maine's oceans when the legislation accurately reflects its impact. In this case I expect more harm than good to occur. Maine's working waterfronts are not only part of Maine's history, but also Maine's future. I work hard so I might inspire others to stay and work along our beautiful coast.

I support the Maine Aquaculture Association and their (our) efforts to find strong and constructive solutions to address concerns while also allowing Maine aquaculture businesses to grow.

Thank you for your time.
Alicia Gaiero