

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

I, Chelsea Gaiero, am writing in opposition of LD 1146. I am 16 years old and I work with my sister on her oyster farm. I currently have my own LPAs being processed. She is one of the youngest independent sea farmers in the state and the owner of Nauti Sisters Sea Farm located in Yarmouth, Maine.

Being on the water I have been able to see the diversity in Maine's aquaculture industry and I've been able to learn that there are very different scales of aquaculture. I've been able to learn about this since I live in Belfast, the soon to be site of Nordic Aquafarms. I've been able to learn that there is great strength in diversity and large farms should not be penalized like they could be with this concept bill.

I also know that allowing esthetics or viewscapes to be a consideration of lease criteria will have a negative impact on industry members. The leasing process is already experiencing delays and discourages people like my sisters and I to expand this business and stay in Maine. I want to be a part of Maine's working waterfront for a long time.

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

Thank you for your time
Chelsea Gaiero