

Griffin Harkins  
Saco

I believe this act will do more harm than good to the current state of Maine's working water fronts. As a Mainer who's seen such progress in Maine's sustainable approach to many types of aquaculture, I would be saddened to see an act like this one jeopardize that progress by allowing wealthy out of state landowners to take control of Maine's working water front for their own greedy benefits. I find the current unity of Maine working water front, especially as it pertains to the aquaculture sect, to be in danger of this act. These are jobs for Mainers, and I would hate to see increased aquaculture fees/rents, and further delays to site lease applications that are already time consuming enough. Maine aquaculture is a beacon within the industry for what hard working women and men are capable of doing when they come together for a common cause, creating many jobs that not only provide economic stimulation, but also valuable ecological services (as seen within many shellfish and macro algae farms). I hope you will take my testimony and those of others opposed to this act seriously.