

Jes Heil  
Maine Family Seafarm Cooperative

I am here today to speak against LD 1146.

This is a dangerously misleading bill proposed by wealthy out of staters who are attempting to drive a wedge between two traditionally working class groups: aquaculturists and commercial fishermen. Fishermen and sea farmers want the same thing--to be good stewards of our ocean and to support our families. This bill would cause significant harm to our ability to do either of those things by unnecessarily bogging down an already swamped leasing process.

The Dark Money group behind this purposefully misleading and vaguely worded bill has a history of using lies and scare tactics to further their agenda. They even organized themselves in a such a way that allows them to legally hide where their money comes from. It really raises the question of what they have to hide.

This bill would put my livelihood at risk by grinding a glacial lease process to a full halt and raising costs to maintain my farm. I strongly oppose LD 1146. And I strongly support MAA's efforts to find actual productive solutions to the issues facings Maine's working waters.