

Richard Larrabee, Jr.
Stonington

Senator Miramant, Rep. McCreight and the honorable members of the Marine Resources Committee.

I am submitting this written testimony as I can't attend the remote hearing on April 13th as I will be working.

I am testifying in support of LD 1146.

I own a 46 footer called the Rock Bottom and I am deeply concerned with how many aquaculture leases are being given out there won't be any bottom left in many parts of Maine. I have fished my whole life. We are faced with incredible challenges with windmills and taking up space but also with aquaculture as more and more of the bottom is being taken up by large-scale aquaculture. Once you get large leases in, there is no way to go back. Leases are almost never revoked. Oversight is minimal. Like wind, we face what feels like big government dipping into our financial future. I am pleased to give this testimony and I hope you hear my voice. There are many lobstermen in my area that feel the same way. What's wrong with stopping to look at whether it's working? Nothing - unless you are in the back pocket of industrialized wind or aquaculture. I think we need to take a serious look at what we want our coast to look like a year from now, 5, 10 20 years down the road.

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Stonington, Maine