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Hello:

I oppose LD 1146. It should not pass. About 5 years ago, my family started an aquaculture farm in Casco Bay. The farm provides a living for my wife and two boys (24 and 20 years old). We all work on the farm. It is a dream come true to be able to have my kids make a living on the water, earn a livable wage and live in the town where they grew up. In addition, both my boys have Commercial Lobster Licenses, however, they are concerned about the future of that fishery and see Aquaculture as a great solution.

All that we have built in the last 5 years would be at risk if LD1146 passed. It is my goal and dream to eventually transfer the farm to my two boys so that they can hopefully earn a respectable living right here on the coast of Maine. This multigenerational plan would be in serious jeopardy if LD1146 passed.

We spent three years going through the Leasing process. In the end, we were granted a lease. The process is very thorough and involved. It is not broken. Quite a lot of applications are not granted because of any number of reasons. There are a lot of checks and balances. It works.

Lastly, why take away the aquaculture exemption from NURPA and Site development law? This makes no sense, other than providing the aquaculture opponents to require visual and alternative site studies ... this will be more costly for the applicant and DMR. It will effectively kill any further aquaculture development.

Please, oppose LD1146. This is not the answer. My family's future livelihood will be in jeopardy if this is passed.

Thank you