

I oppose LD1146 because as a lobster fisherman and aquaculturist it compromises the hard work that I have done to diversify my sources of income on Maines working waterfront. I have personally had no issues the DMR and their current leasing system, nor do I see any examples of how the leasing system is broken. Additionally, I strongly oppose the revocation of the aquacultures exemption to NRPA as it will allow opponents to require visual impact and alternative site studies. LD 1146 directly affects our ability to diversify and earn income in these challenging times. Our working waterfront is under attack from all angles, and LD 1146 is no different with the exception that it seems to pit Maines fisherman and women against each other. I believe that MAA has the capability to find solutions to any problems without negatively affecting or interrupting aquaculture in the process. As a fisherman, I have been able to take all existing vocations into consideration when choosing my aquaculture site. I have managed to successfully consult all fisherman and women in my area and have been able to operate without interrupting others. There is a way that we can co-exist without such drastic and unnecessary measures as seen in LD 1146.