

TESTIMONY OF  
Andrew Peters  
Deep Blue Aquaculture LLC.

Deep Blue Aquaculture LLC. is testifying  
In Opposition to  
LD 1146 An Act To Protect Maine's Ocean Waters and Support Regulatory Oversight and the  
Long-term Health of the Aquaculture Industry

Senator Miramant, Representative McCreight, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources, my name is Andrew Peters, Owner of Deep Blue Aquaculture LLC. D/B/A Vertical Bay, a scallop farm located in Penobscot Bay. I am testifying in opposition to LD 1146.

LD 1146 is simply an effort to limit aquaculture in Maine and hurt those individuals and communities it purports to protect. To think otherwise, while understanding the motives of the group proposing this bill, would be to look past the hurtful and devious work they have put forth against Maine's aquaculture industry thus far.

This bill's intentions are false and deceptive and to think it is only targeting large farms is dangerous and naive. It will affect my small business and others, large and small, limiting the positive impact we have on our coastal communities and our coastal economy as a whole.

LD 1146 would drastically impact the personal investment and sacrifice I have put into my business. My life's savings and years of hard work that have been put into my business would all be at risk by LD 1146.

By restricting transferability of my lease and its assets, this bill would limit my ability to have an exit plan from my business and would render my investment worthless in the eyes of a potential buyer or investor in my company. If I was to get sick or injured, I would have no way to cash out and still provide for my family.

Multiple pieces of this bill will effectively price out small operations just starting out, similar to my own. My small business would not be able to afford extensive site reviews and legal fees to fight opposition that would surely result if LD 1146 is passed, not to mention the increase in lease fees.

Maine relies on businesses like mine up and down the coast to fuel our economy, fuel our communities, fuel our way of life. Our way of life is what makes Maine so attractive for others to visit, share, and value Maine's coast for what it is - a working community that makes its living from our shared ocean.

As an aquaculturist and lobster sternman, I suggest we keep Maine's fishing heritage strong and prosperous by opposing this bill. The current leasing system is effective and not broken.

The committee ought not to pass LD 1146.

Thank you for your consideration.