

James Saltonstall
Bagaduce Watershed Association

I am writing to urge you to support LD 1146, recently proposed by Rep. Robert Alley. I am the current President of the Bagaduce Watershed Association (BWA) and am writing to say that our Board of Trustees has reviewed LD 1146 and strongly urges you to vote in favor of this legislation. Our Board has carefully read the summary of LD 1146 and has VOTED strong support for the bill and asked me to pass along our enthusiastic endorsement.

Why do we care? The Bagaduce River currently has two active AQ leases which are being competently managed by two local oyster farmers. In the last five years or so, a number of new AQ sites have been presented and approved by DMR and many local citizens have attended the scoping sessions and hearings and reviewed DMR's determination letters resulting from those meetings. The Bagaduce River communities are quite familiar with the current process and this has led to lots of community discussion about how the process has not served our community and our river very well. Many of the recommendations for change in LD 1146 address those concerns; thus, we believe LD 1146 is a big step forward in improving the licensing process.

Thank you for your careful consideration of LD 1146 and your support of the changes in regulations that it recommends. We strongly urge your vote for LD 1146 to improve DMR's permitting process.

On behalf of the Board of the Bagaduce Watershed Association,

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