

Jordi St John  
Merritt Island Oysters

I am writing to oppose LD 1146 as a small independent Maine oyster farmer. LD 1146 will put all the hard work I have done over the last 5 years to build my business at risk.

I feel that the current DMR leasing and management system is NOT BROKEN and LD 1146 will only make things much worse for Maine residents.

I oppose the revocation of aquacultures exemption to NURPA and Site development law because it will allow opponents to require visual impact and alternative site studies.

In my mind one of the strengths of the Maine aquaculture sector is the mix of company size. That diversity has helped the sector weather the covid challenge. LD 1146 discourages companies from investing and growing. It is intended to weaken the sector and Maines working waterfronts.

I fully support MAA and their efforts to find constructive solutions that address concerns while allowing Maine aquaculture businesses to grow.