

Jake Thompson
Vinalhaven

Jake Thompson – Vinalhaven Lobstermen

Senator Miramant, Representative McCreight, and members of the Marine Resources Committee.

My name is Jake Thompson and I am a lobsterman from Vinalhaven.

I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 1146.

There are some pieces of this bill I agree with such as the 1,000 acres.

It's just too much acreage for any one person or corporation to have.

It actually encourages corporate development along Maine's coast.

We can see that with the recent lease application by a foreign company in Gouldsboro.

I think this bill should include a residency requirement for any lease application.

I also know that a lot of debris that is left floating in the water doesn't get cleaned up. People report it and I believe

that the Department of Marine Resources is not staffed to follow up with many of these complaints.

I would encourage the owner-operator model we have with a residence requirement for aquaculture leases in Maine.

We need to take a look at the rules and regulations so that we don't create a situation that sells our coast and hurts our own people.

The ocean is for everyone to enjoy not a few to own.