

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this testimony in regards to Bill LD 1146. My name is Krista Tripp. I am a lobsterwoman and also owner of a small oyster farm, Aphrodite Oysters LLC, which is located in South Thomaston, ME. I am grateful I have diversified my income into two separate industries because the lobstering industry is at threat of being shut down between endangerments to the right whales and also from "big wind," who may critically impact and devastate the lobstering industry along with many other fisheries as well.

I am highly opposed to LD 1146. My plan was to expand my oyster farm so that I would be able to make a sustainable living for my family, while also creating more job opportunities for people in my community. Our entire fishing community is extremely worried about the future of the lobstering industry and they fear how they will be able to make a living while still being able to work on the water. Without being able to expand my farm, I will not be able to continue to keep the working waterfront alive here in the small fishing town that I live. With Maine's economy being so reliant on seafood, lobstering, and fishing; I feel it is extremely important to keep Maine's Working Waterfront alive here in Maine! Aquaculture is a sustainable, healthy, and environmentally friendly way to make a living on the water while providing the world with a high quality seafood. This bill will would completely devastate my plans of expanding my farm and it would decimate any job opportunities for people who live here that had originally relied on the lobstering industry as a means to provide a living for themselves and their families. Without lobstering and oystering as a way to make a living then I and many other families will be completely out of work and without any hope whatsoever in providing for our families. I could not survive off my small 1 acre farm if the lobstering industry got shut down.

Please do not pass this very vague bill put forth by people who have a history of opposing aquaculture and who have tried to pin Maine's working waterfront industries against each other at such a detrimental time.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony! I appreciate your time in reading this and for considering how much this bill would detrimentally effect myself, my family, and many other families who rely on our oceans as a means of survival!

Sincerely,

Krista Tripp
(207) 542-0121
krtripp08@yahoo.com