

Evan Young
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April 12, 2021

The Honorable David Miramant, Senate Chair
The Honorable Jay McCreight, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources
Cross Building, Room 206
Augusta, ME. 04333

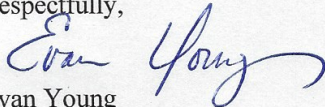
Senator Miramant, Representative McCreight, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources:

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to speak with you this morning. My name is Evan Young and I live in Hancock, Maine and fish out of Blue Hill Bay. I am writing to you today to testify in strong opposition to LD1146, "An Act to Protect Maine's Ocean Waters and Support Regulatory Oversight and the Long-Term Health of the Aquaculture Industry".

I've been growing rope grown mussels for 22 years, investing as I could afford to. I have put most of the money I have made back into my business instead of investing in the stock market. Thinking all along that I was investing towards my retirement if I can not sell my aquaculture business than I will not have a retirement.

As fisherman we are facing many challenges, right whales, offshore wind development and changing environments are all threatening my ability to continue making a living on the water. LD 1146 is yet another threat that will make it more difficult for me to use aquaculture as a way to diversify my income and adapt to some of the changes I am facing. Although the bill distinguishes between aquaculture operations that are above and below 5 acres, it will have impacts on all lease holders big and small. Please vote "Ought Not To Pass" on LD 1146. Thank you for your patience and willingness to listen to my concerns.

Respectfully,



Evan Young
President/Owner
Tightrope Seafarms LLC
Blue Hill Bay Mussels LLC