

Susan Brawley  
Orono

Dear Members of the Joint Standing Committee of the Legislature,

I am a marine biologist. I and my students have worked on the coast for 30 years in support of both conservation/environmental management and development of new fisheries (e.g. various seaweed businesses including my aid in development of macroalgal aquaculture).

I have long advocated for the need to establish marine reserves on the coast (e.g., as a Member of the DMR-appointed Advisory Committee on Rockweed Harvesting (2014)). I have long advocated for sustainable harvest of rockweed and development of macroalgal aquaculture.

These principles, conservation of natural habitats and development of marine businesses, should not be in conflict, because their sustainability is intertwined. However, the conflicts are now real, and the potential for irreversible harm to our coastal environment is apparent to me.

LD1211 offers a path forward.

Please include this correspondence as testimony of my support for LD1211.

Sincerely yours,  
Susan H. Brawley

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