

May 3, 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 Mike Briggs. I am the owner of Taunton Bay
Oyster Co. Inc and live in Blue Hill.

I stand before you today to testify in strong opposition to LD 1211, “A
Resolve, To Create the Study Group to Research Balancing
Development and Conservation in Maine's Coastal Waters and
Submerged Lands.”

LD 1211 establishes a 25-member commission to review existing
shoreland zone, coastal waters and submerged lands laws in Maine.
There is NO representation for aquaculture on the Commission.

LD 1211 will force DMR to use staff and resources on yet another
study that will freeze the leasing system and allow the anti-
aquaculture campaign and wealthy landowners to raise more money
and spread more misinformation over the next year.

LD 1211 will focus on the relative role of statewide authorities versus
regional authorities that do not currently exist in Maine. The
establishment of regional management authorities will be a dramatic
departure from current law and will add significant layers to any
permitting or leasing procedure.

Regionalization will decrease DMR’s ability to ensure consistent and
fair management of ALL state waters and resources and place a
tremendous strain on DMR staff time as they engage with multiple

“bay management” groups. Maine’s existing aquaculture leasing system will grind to a halt.

The existing aquaculture leasing and environmental monitoring system is NOT broken and does not need “improvement,” it works. So many of us testified against the last anti aquaculture bill LD 1146. Now they are here again? I have a business to run and product to farm and I am frustrated by this constant campaign of big money.

Finally, I want to thank the committee for your patience and willingness to listen closely to those of us who make our living on the water and help preserve Maine’s endangered working waterfronts. Please vote Ought NOT to Pass on LD 1211. Thank you for your attention. I would be glad to answer any questions you have.

Respectfully,

Michael Briggs.