



May 3, 2021

State of Maine Legislature
Marine Resources Committee
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD1211

Dear Marine Resources Committee,

I own and operate a small family shellfish aquaculture farm in Yarmouth, Maine and I also represent The Maine Family SeaFarms Cooperative, a growing group of dedicated professionals who work on the water. We have invested our lives, our savings and our hopes into our farms. I'm writing to you because LD1211 threatens our farms and our substantial investments. The farmers in this burgeoning business sector need your support as we are just getting started. We respectfully request that you reject this proposal.

Those of us who work on the water and are building this new coastal economy would like an opportunity to work with our State Department of Marine Resources to find good solutions to the challenges on our shared waters. LD1211 takes control away from those of us who have dedicated our lives to this business sector and are most knowledgeable about the needs and challenges facing our waters. LD1211 puts our businesses and future on the water at risk.

Please give our farmers, our associations, and our experts at the Maine Marine Resources Department an opportunity to build a sustainable new economy on our coastline that positively impacts our waters and our communities. Our goals are aligned with those who desire improved water quality, a healthier marine ecosystem, and a thriving coastal economy in Maine. Our scarce and precious resources should be directed toward funding DMR so that they may work with those of us who have dedicated our lives to working on the water. We deeply appreciate your support. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Keith P. Butterfield
Founder, Butterfield Shellfish
Treasurer, The Maine Family SeaFarms Cooperative