

Pemaquid Oyster Company, Inc.
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Exclusive purveyors of Pemaquid Oysters®

May 3, 2021

Senator Miramont, Rep McCreight and distinguished members of the Marine Resources Committee

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO LD 1211

My name is Chris Davis and I live in Waldoboro. I direct the Maine Aquaculture Innovation Center, have served on the DMR Aquaculture Advisory Council since 2004, sit on the Board of the MAA and am a founder of the Pemaquid Oyster Company, based on the Damariscotta River and now celebrating our 36th season of sustainably farming oysters. We employ 8 people with health benefits. We farm 20 acres but have grown incrementally and gone through the lease process a half dozen times in the past thirty-five years with NO OPPOSITION.

LD 1211 would trigger the most sweeping review of existing marine resource laws in nearly 50 years and would consume an exhaustive amount of time on DMR's behalf – time better spent processing the backlog of applications. The idea of establishing regional management authorities would severely undermine the effectiveness and cohesiveness of the current leasing process and would significantly slow down the time to secure a lease. Adding insult to injury is the fact that the proposed study commission does not include any aquaculture companies!

I strongly urge you to vote “ought not to pass” on this bill.

Sincerely,



Chris Davis