

Libby Davis  
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I, Libby Davis, as a small business owner that directly supports the aquaculture industry, oppose the bill LD 1211 as it will stifle overall growth in the aquaculture sector and weaken Maine's working waterfronts. The establishment of regional management authorities as outlined in this bill, will unnecessarily complicate current permitting and leasing procedures by adding significant layers to the process. The ripple effect this will have on DMR's ability to ensure consistent and fair management of the state's waters and resources will be jeopardized, with staff time and resources preoccupied by managing multiple "bay management" groups. The makeup of the commission suggests that commercial working waterfront activities, including aquaculture, will be intentionally marginalized and the current leasing and management system does not require such restrictive changes at this time. I support the mission of the Maine Aquaculture Association (MAA) and their efforts to find solutions that address the concerns of the people, most affected in their daily lives by these policy changes. It is my belief that we should be creating more opportunities for expansion and growth for Maine aquaculture businesses that; promote sustainable food systems providing value and visibility to the Maine brand, inspire new waves of entrepreneurialism and innovation that create jobs inclusive to all demographics and, pays homage to our Maine heritage. Many thanks.