

Jes Heil
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My name is Jes Heil. I am the owner of Pound of Tea Oysters, the Vice President of Maine Family Seafarm Cooperative, and I live in Portland. I am testifying in strong opposition to LD 1211.

LD 1211 is a back door way to take another try at pushing through legislation that you just defeated (LD 1146). Proponents of LD 1146 are pushing hard for LD 1211 because it will give them a vehicle to submit legislation in the next session.

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. This is yet another ploy by wealthy out-of-staters to stifle a working waterfront industry.

The bill is very similar to a prior exercise under the Baldacci administration. The task force created at that time considered all the issues outlined in LD 1211 and concluded that the establishment of "Bay Management" authorities was not warranted and would in fact make it more difficult to effectively manage the states marine resources.

Please vote Ought NOT to Pass on LD1211. Maine's working waterfront doesn't need anymore unnecessary hurdles.