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Testimony to Not Support LD 1211

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 the time for this testimony. My purpose is to express my OPPOSITION to LD1211, "A Resolve, To Create the Study Group to Research Balancing Development and Conservation in Maine's Coastal Waters and Submerged Lands"

I am Ryan McPherson, the owner of Glidden Point Oyster Company EST. 1987(Damariscotta) and Nonesuch Oyster Company EST. 2010(Scarborough). I am also on the Shellfish Advisory Council.

I moved to Maine because of the Aquaculture sector. I moved to Maine to make a living on the water. I moved to Maine for its working waterfront. Maine is a working waterfront and should remain one.

LD1211 is yet another attempt to attack the state's working waterfronts. Anti-aquaculture interests are using the legislature to harass hardworking small business owners who are trying to make a living on the water.

Maine's working waterfront communities face many challenges, but aquaculture is not one of them. Aquaculture has been part of Maine's working waterfronts for over 40 years. State agencies and the legislature's resources should be focused on the serious threats including right whales, climate change, and offshore wind.

The establishment of regional management bodies that structurally **discriminate against working waterfront interests** will effectively allow wealthy coastal communities to establish "gated communities" where working waterfronts are not welcome

The makeup of the commission ensures that commercial working waterfront interests, including **commercial fishing and aquaculture, will be in the minority and intentionally marginalized.**

LD1211 would put the hard work of building these businesses and teams at risk, for those reasons I OPPOSE.

I do support Maine Aquaculture Association and their efforts to find constructive solutions that address concerns while allowing Maine aquaculture businesses to grow.

Sincerely,

Ryan McPherson