

Jennifer Robinson  
Pembroke

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 giving me the opportunity to submit my written concerns. My name is Jennifer Robinson from Pembroke, I work and live in Down east Maine on the waterfront from Cooke Aquaculture USA, Inc.

I strongly oppose LD 1211, "A Resolve, To Create the Study Group to Research Balancing Development and Conservation in Maine's Coastal Water and Submerged Lands."

As a member of the working waterfront, how is it that LD 1211 establishes a 25 member commission that has no representation from Aquaculture? Aquaculture has played an important part in our coastal waters for generations.

This bill, same as another bill that was just recently defeated LD 1146, would put undue burden on DMR forcing them to allocate staff and resources on another study. LD 1211 would also slow an already lengthy leasing process down, as members of the DMR would be focused on this study. LD 1211 focuses to add regional authorities, that are not currently in place, which would add to the already complex leasing procedure. This regionalization will affect DMR's ability to ensure that there is consistency with their process throughout the entire state.

The currently aquaculture leasing system is the result of over 40 years of improvement and refining. Other regions look to Maine as a "State that has got it right". Why would we take a committees recommendations that were created in less than a year over 40 years of experience?

I would like to thank the committee again for allowing me to submit my written comments. Please vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 1211.

Kind regards,

Jennifer Robinson