

Testimony 1211

My name is Kathleen Rybarz. I came to Maine 35 years ago, after graduating from college. I accepted my first job here as a Hospital Pharmacist. I moved to Lamoine 30 years ago when my family found a perfect place to live. My husband built our home, and I have been a selectman now for Lamoine for the past 5 years and part of Friends of Frenchman Bay.

I am testifying in support of LD1211. It is meant to deal with and plan around conflict. Friends of Frenchman Bay is a group that formed around one such conflict. You will or have heard many stories about this area from our many members. The group is diverse and everyone brings different knowledge and perspective to the discussion. The common denominator is that members want to preserve the current aquaculture, fishing and lobster industries. We want to safeguard existing businesses that depend on the boating and tourism industry, and last we want to preserve the coastal areas we all enjoy. Planning will help that. LD1211 will help that.

LD 1211 is about sitting at the dining room table and discussing plans for the future. Just like Lamoine went through 3 years of discussing our newly approved comprehensive plan. The places, municipalities and communities in Maine that surround water ways and bays need to sit around the table and create a regional comprehensive plan about the bay, their individual BAY. The past, present and future is what a comprehensive plan is all about. This bill asks for a statewide process, but a regional conversation. Each region is unique in both the physical circumstances, the businesses and people that live there. What Casco Bay wants, will be different than Coobscook Bay or Merri-meeting Bay.

In response to some concerns I have heard from the Aquaculture industry here today. This is not a risky proposition. It is planning proposal. The comprehensive planning process didn't put Lamoine at risk. It was a long process where we sat down, documented what we have and how it got where it is today, then thought about the future.

The makeup or definitions of the regional commissions is NOT part of this proposal for a STUDY group. Therefore, that composition is OPEN AND UNDETERMINED. This isn't about wealthy vs working people. It's about the 3 miles of Atlantic Ocean in Maine held for the public TRUST. Water that flows in and out with the tides. That water is in the state's control for the PEOPLE of Maine. Not just one industry, but everyone who lives here. Everyone is invited to have a seat, all STAKEHOLDERS.

It's about BALANCE. It's about planning a future in a meaningful way, one step at a time, revising and changing, making a working document that can change and adapt as our world changes.

Kathleen Rybarz
Lamoine

Testimony 1211 May 4, 2021

Senator Miramant, Representative McCreight, Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources; Thank you for providing me the opportunity to speak with you this morning.

My name is Kathleen Rybarz. I came to Maine 35 years ago, after graduating from college. I accepted my first job here as a Hospital Pharmacist. I moved to Lamoine 30 years ago when my family found a perfect place to live. My husband built our home, and I have been a selectman now for Lamoine for the past 5 years and part of Friends of Frenchman Bay.

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