

Francis M. Weld

May 4, 2021

To: The Marine Resources Committee

From: Francis M. Weld

Re: LD 1211, A Resolve, To Create the Study Group To Research Balancing Development and Conservation in Maine's Coastal Waters and Submerged Lands

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing as a concerned citizen to urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 1211.

I am a lifelong coastal mariner and a committed environmentalist. I received a Masters degree from Cornell University; my thesis was on the economics of finfish aquaculture.

I wholehearted support Representative Williams' call to balance development and conservation in Maine's coastal waters.

We need to update regulations and policy to better respond to increased and evolving pressures on the coastal resource.

Referring to the legislative work of other states that have addressed this issue, particularly Rhode Island, makes perfect sense.

Working to include all stakeholders in the oversight of state and regional waters is long overdue.

I urge you to support this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis M. Weld