

Meredith Bruskin
Swanville
LD 586

To Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources:

I apologize for being late to submit testimony on Bill 586, but did not realize in time the hearing was on the March 16 and feel this bill is so critically necessary that I felt it important to at least try and be part of the public record.

I live in Swanville and have been part of a 5 year process that unhappily has become quite divisive in Waldo County, to first examine and question, and ultimately oppose, the application for Nordic Aquafarms here in Belfast. I did not start out opposed, but in doing hours of research and realizing that one of the reasons that this Norwegian company was in our area was because there are few requirements, restrictions, or regulation on Aquaculture here in Maine--Eric Heim himself, told me that coming to Maine meant far less financial costs for licensing or burdensome regulations than was required Norway. Unhappily, we had to scramble to try to make informed decisions, which must include and prioritize the effects of RAS to our waters and our environment. As so many of us in Maine are aware, our beautiful Bay , our access to clean waters, our beautiful environment are our richest assets both culturally and economically. This bill would have been such a welcome asset to our region's decision making process about this project!

If LD 586 is passed, we will have a standard for our waters that makes sense both for now, and all future generations. I believe the climate studies are showing us that we are running out of time, and all our decisions about development MUST take the environmental impact on beautiful Penobscot Bay, and our rivers into account. This Bill is a good beginning for a reasonable and sustainable local Aquaculture industry. Please vote Ought to Pass. Thank you for your attention. Meredith Bruskin, FNP
Swanville