Cara Harshman Belfast LD 586

I moved to Maine in 2020 to put down roots and start a family. The miles and miles of beautiful, pristine coastline and all that it offers brought me here. The land-based industrial aquaculture projects, if left unregulated as they are today, will ruin that pristine coastline and create a dismal future for me and other young ocean-loving families. Please support LD 586 and Protect Maine Fisheries from the Effects of Industrial Recirculating Aquaculture.

I urge you to support this bill because it's a win-win-win: win for the aquaculture industry, win for the environment, and win for Mainers who recreate on the ocean and the Mainers who work in the fisheries. The bill keeps the aquaculture practices cleaner, which is better for the employees who work there and the consumers who buy the fish. The environment is in dire straights. It's unthinkable to blatantly allow new industry to knowingly adds millions of gallons of wastewater into our clean waters. Futhermore, at the current rate, if this bill does not pass, we risk not meeting our important Greenhouse emission targets.

Maine's reputation in the country as a resilient, climate conscious state is in jeopardy with the influx of dirty aquaculture. Please, for the future Mainers yet to be born, the sacred waters and our planet, pass this bill to put smart boundaries on industrial aquaculture.