



March 23, 2023

Re: In Opposition to **LD 710 An Act to Fund the Lobster Legal Defense Fund**

Senator Reny, Representative Hepler, and members of the Committee on Marine Resources:

My name is Beth Gallie and I am President of Maine Animal Coalition. Maine Animal Coalition is a not for profit dedicated to the elimination of animal abuse and exploitation through education, advocacy, and example.

Maine Animal Coalition opposes funding the Lobster Legal Defense Fund because we support the executive and judicial branches of the federal government and environmental groups in their efforts to preserve the Right Whale from extinction.

We have been informed by scientists that there are indeed Right Whales in the waters where Maine lobstermen place their traps. We believe it is imperative that the lobster industry not delay modernizing its equipment and adapting its working patterns to save the Right Whales. The money of the taxpayers of Maine would be better spent on prevention and not litigation.

Sincerely,

Beth Gallie

South Portland