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I am against this bill. DMR is not adequately staffed to process aquaculture applications, regulate leases or safeguard the marine environment.

The existing aquaculture lease application process is already prejudiced against the many stakeholders who have an interest in the health of Maine waters. This bill will only make it harder for stakeholders to register their concerns.

The health of Maine's waters will be threatened by these fast-track changes which may result in significant negative consequences on eelgrass beds and Maine's fisheries.