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President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

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Testimony in Support of LD 2275
An Act to Ensure That Rules Regarding the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Are Major Substantive Rules
Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources
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Senator Reny, Representative Hepler and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources, my name is Troy Jackson. I serve as President of the Maine Senate and have the great honor of representing Aroostook County in the Legislature. I am here today to introduce LD 2275, "An Act to Ensure that Rules Regarding the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission are Major Substantive Rules."

This bill aims to bring legislative and public oversight into the conversation when the department is implementing decisions made by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission by making all rules related to that implementation major substantive rules. I believe that collaboration among the Atlantic states is important in managing our marine resources. However, I think it is equally important that Mainers understand what decisions are being made regarding our fishing practices, especially when they affect vital heritage industries like the lobstering industry.

When there is a group of people making decisions about an issue that primarily affects Maine, they should not be able to move forward without legislative oversight or proper public oversight. This leads to regulations where our lobstermen have to throw back lobsters that our neighbors in Canada are allowed to catch. Rules like this put us at a disadvantage that the other states in the Commission will not face. And when these rules then get implemented as routine technical, they pass both the legislature and regular Mainers by with no opportunity for scrutiny. I think we as legislators have a duty to our coastal fishing communities to take a closer look at these rules before they go into effect.

This session especially, we as a legislature have determined that there are a number of areas that require closer scrutiny from us as representatives of the people of Maine - like electric vehicle regulations and cannabis regulations.¹ I can't think of a more appropriate place for our scrutiny to be directed than at the rules affecting our state's most iconic heritage industry, and the livelihood of the everyday Mainers who keep that industry going.

Thank you for your time and attention. I urge you to pass this bill and I would be happy to answer any questions.

¹ EVs: <https://legislature.maine.gov/billtracker/#Paper/2261?legislature=131> (Committee vote OTPA)
Cannabis: <https://legislature.maine.gov/billtracker/#Paper/978?legislature=131> (Enacted) 900 * TTY 711
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