

Written Testimony in Support of LD 2069

An Act Designating July 21st as Maine Commercial Fishing Remembrance Day

Public Hearing January 21, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Submitted to:

Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government
Maine Legislature

My name is Ann-Marie R. Sokoloski, and I am writing in strong support of LD 2069, An Act Designating July 21st as Maine Commercial Fishing Remembrance Day. While I am unable to attend the public hearing in person, I respectfully submit this written testimony to urge the Committee to support this important legislation.

Maine's commercial fishing industry is not only an economic driver it is a way of life, a heritage, and a community bound together by shared risk, responsibility, and resilience. Every person who works on the water understands that fishing is one of the most dangerous professions in our state. Loss is not abstract in our coastal communities; it is personal, remembered by name, boat, harbor, and family.

Designating July 21st as Maine Commercial Fishing Remembrance Day gives our state a meaningful, permanent way to acknowledge those who have lost their lives while working to feed others and sustain Maine's maritime economy. It also provides space for families, fellow fishermen, and communities to grieve publicly, honor responsibly, and remember collectively.

This day is not about symbolism alone. It is about recognition of sacrifice, of risk, and of the quiet courage required to go back out after loss. It affirms that Maine sees its fishermen, values their labor, and remembers those who never made it home.

I also believe this designation supports broader goals of safety awareness, mental health visibility, and intergenerational understanding. When remembrance is recognized at the state level, it opens the door for education, reflection, and conversations that strengthen the fishing community rather than leaving grief unspoken.

I want to thank the sponsors of LD 2069, the many organizations and individuals who have worked to bring this bill forward. Their efforts reflect the best of Maine people showing up for one another and honoring those who can no longer speak for themselves.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2069.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your service to the people of Maine.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann-Marie R. Sokoloski
Lubec, Maine