

LD 489 Language: *The people of the State have the right to a clean and healthy environment and to the preservation of the natural, cultural and healthful qualities of the environment. The State may not infringe upon these rights. The State shall conserve, protect and maintain the State's natural resources, including, but not limited to, its air, water, land and ecosystems for the benefit of all the people, including generations yet to come.*

Dear Representatives of the Maine State Legislature,

As commercial fishermen, lobstermen, and individual aquaculturists, we urge you to vote in favor of the Pine Tree Amendment. Our work makes us acutely aware of our connection to the natural world around us and how dependent we are on sustaining a healthy and productive environment. Many of us live in small towns or islands where our fisheries provide the bulk of employment and drive the local economy. Maintaining the natural resources we rely on, as well as our access to them, are of prime importance to us.

Over the years we have taken many steps to protect and manage our own industry, creating a heritage of conservation. This is just a part of our culture which we hope might still be passed on to future generations. Lately, we have realized that managing our fisheries is no longer simple and within our control. We find ourselves affected by top-down policies on climate, energy, species protection, and even trade regulations. Decisions seem to be made well in advance of our having any input.

We believe that the Pine Tree Amendment is an important strategy for giving us a more powerful voice for protecting not only the ecosystems we rely on, but our way of life here along the coast. Please help us continue doing the work we love in an environment we cherish. We ask you to vote in favor of the Pine Tree Amendment.

Sincerely,

PLEASE PRINT

NAME

TOWN

F/V or BUSINESS

EMAIL ADDRESS

Please return this letter by either scanning or taking a screenshot and emailing it to pinetreamendment@gmail.org OR mailing it to P O Box 145, Edgecomb ME 04556