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Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 948

Natural Resources - Commercial Oyster Authorizations - Requirements

In Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

February 25, 2020

As a local waterman, I hereby attest and affirm my right as a tax-paying law-abiding citizen to oppose Senate Bill 948 that brought us here today. This bill would prevent anyone who works on the water who had been hurt or injured and had been out of commission for 2 years plus, or anyone who ever tries to obtain an oyster license, from doing so. For some, that is the only way to make their living; the only way to provide food for their family. For others, they have raised their children or are currently raising their children to work the waters and teach them the ways of oystering. How can you possibly have the right to take away from law abiding tax paying citizens their way of living? We are people with voices in the land of the free governed by the people, so if you all take this away from us not only are you taking away our living but also our rights. By taking this away you will have proven yourself to become corrupt but also this is tyranny. Tyranny is defined in one way as "cruel, unreasonable, or arbitrary use of power or control." When you take away a person's way to live and survive or take away the only way someone has been taught how to make a living you are proving that there is tyranny in your government system it is our right to stand against that. Not only are you standing against us, but you are standing against the constitution by doing this. We are the people. We are citizens. We are watermen and our voices must be heard.

Sincerely,

Jason Hoffman