



Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association

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Oral & Email: JointCommittee.Environment@malegislature.gov

Senator Rebecca L. Rausch, Chair
Representative Christine P. Barber, Chair
Joint Committee Environment
24 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02133

RE: H. 4040 An Act preventing the discharge of radioactive materials

Dear Chair Rausch & Chair Barber,

The Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association (MLA) respectfully submits this letter of **SUPPORT** for ***H. 4040*** An Act preventing the discharge of radioactive materials.

In 2023, the commercial lobstermen in the Commonwealth landed more than 15 million pounds of lobster, with an economic value of 236 million dollars to the local economy. The MLA does not support Holtec's request to dump or evaporate ANY radioactive water into our ocean or atmosphere, it is unconscionable and will jeopardize thousands of jobs here in the Commonwealth. It appears that Holtec is seeking the least expensive way to dispose of the radioactive material, and it cannot be at the expense of the marine ecosystem.

Established in 1963, the MLA is a member-driven organization that accepts and supports the interdependence of species conservation and the members' collective economic interests. The MLA continues to work conscientiously through the management process with the Division of Marine Fisheries, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries, Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team, and the New England Fisheries Management Council to ensure the continued sustainability and profitability of all the resources in which our fishermen are engaged in.

Furthermore, there are numerous unintended consequences that Holtec's actions will have from; contaminating our oceans and beaches with radioactive materials, the negative impacts on the critically endangered 360 plus right whales and the food source that is abundant in Cape Cod Bay, the negative perception on tourism and the public alike who visit Americas Home Town as well as the coastal communities, and on the commercial fishing industry as tourists and consumers alike will stop eating all of the delicious and nutritious seafood locally harvested. All these negative impacts will be irreversible and economically devastating here in the Commonwealth should Holtec be allowed to dump or evaporate any of their radioactive water into Cape Cod Bay.

Thank you all for your tireless efforts in fighting to keep our oceans clean and pristine for generations to come. We look forward to working with you on this most important and life altering matter.

Kind regards,

Beth Casoni

Executive Director