



## House of Representatives

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**Oyster Mariculture Legislation – Putting “Georgians First”  
by Passing Legislation that is Good for Georgians  
*Please Vote NO on HB501***

Dear Senator,

In the coming days, you will be voting on important legislation [HB501](#) that, if passed, will continue to hamper and stymie the growth of Georgia’s Oyster Mariculture industry – an industry that does not exist today. Industry producers and supporters strongly oppose HB501/SB182.

We have an opportunity to take a \$250,000 industry and grow it into a multi-million-dollar industry – but only if we pass the right legislation – not HB501/SB182.

Ask yourself the question - if the General Assembly is not going to pass good legislation that will help grow the oyster industry in Georgia, then why are we passing bad legislation HB501?

Attached is an Oyster Mariculture [Legislation Comparison Chart](#) comparing [HB501/SB182](#), legislation opposed by the industry, to [HB565](#), legislation supported by the industry. *Column one* of the chart lists the key legislative areas that oyster mariculture supporters and producers have identified as being critical to growing our Georgia Oyster Mariculture industry. *Column two* of the chart lists the problems with HB501/SB182 as identified by the industry. *Column three* shows how these same legislative needs are resolved by [HB565 – the Georgia Mariculture Development Act](#).

A copy of the good, industry supported Georgia Mariculture Development Act [HB565 \(LC 45 0293ERS\)](#) is attached.

Also attached are letters from several producers, on their letterhead, explaining why HB501/SB182 are not good for the industry. Again, if we are not going to pass legislation that will help the industry, then we are better off with not passing any legislation in 2019.

For the record, we offered a Study Committee to work out the differences – that offer was flatly rejected. But frankly, a Study Committee is unnecessary. What is necessary is passage of HB565.

Also, for the record, HB565 creates an Mariculture Advisory Panel that many supporting the industry have called for.

**Please VOTE NO on HB501.**

Sincerely,

Jeff Jones