

**STATE OF MAINE**

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**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD**

**TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE**

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**JOINT RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS THE LEGISLATURE'S  
OPPOSITION TO THE REMOVAL OF NAVIGATIONAL BUOYS**

**WHEREAS**, on May 8, 2025, the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources voted unanimously to send a letter expressing the committee's concern about the proposed removal of dozens of United States Coast Guard navigational buoys along the Maine coast; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the United States Coast Guard, most if not all buoys would be removed to modernize the system of navigational aids and limit vessel transit risk to an acceptable level at an acceptable cost; and

**WHEREAS**, buoys are essential tools along Maine's highly irregular coast, where rocky outcroppings are common and tides can be strong, especially in eastern Maine, and are especially critical in areas prone to dense fog, strong currents or hidden hazards; and

**WHEREAS**, the buoys targeted for removal are used by mariners to navigate their vessels at harbor entrances and around ledges and other hazards; and

**WHEREAS**, in its letter, the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources expressed its strong opposition to the proposed removal of these buoys because of its concern that removing these physical aids will create hazards for the State's fishing communities; and

**WHEREAS**, most commercial fishermen use physical aids, including the buoys, as well as newer technology, but current electronic navigation charts and charting systems and smartphone navigation apps are not always reliable and, if they were to fail and no alternative navigational tools are available, lives may be put at risk; and

**WHEREAS**, small boaters, including kayakers and recreational fishermen, do not always have the capacity to purchase these electronic systems and keep up with associated subscriptions and must rely on physical aids by necessity; and

**WHEREAS**, the people of our State are tied to the ocean through fishing and recreation and the proposal to remove the buoys is shortsighted and even dangerous; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to express its strong opposition to the United States Coast Guard's plan to remove the navigational buoys.