

Good morning Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and distinguished members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. I am Representative Michael Ray, and I represent the towns of Appleton, Islesboro, Liberty, Lincolnville, Montville, Morrill and Searsmont in House District 40. I'm writing in strong support of LD 841 : Resolve, to Study the Delivery of Emergency Medical Services to and Ferry Service Effects on Island Communities in the State.

Emergency medical services are at risk throughout the state, and current and prior Legislatures have made and are making positive steps in addressing this situation. I believe that the people of the State of Maine will be better served - and lives saved- because of this attention. However, while the reliance on an ambulance is vital no matter where one lives, residents on islands currently face an even more uncertain future. With most often a stretch of open water between themselves and a hospital, island communities present a unique challenge. And so I encourage the creation of a working group focused on island needs and conditions to study how we might meet that challenge.

While just about anyone calling a Maine island home would proudly say that their piece of ground is unique, islands across the country and globe have looked at how ferries affect EMS services. I'm sure there are many, many areas ripe for inquiry. I believe a focused study will bring to light many alternatives to currently a most worrisome situation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



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