

RE: LD 115, Transportation Committee:

I hope this message finds you well. I'm reaching out to you today to express the concerns LD115 presents for marine related business' in the State of Maine. I am the marina manager at DiMillo's Marina here in Portland, and my family has operated the marina since 1979. For 40+ years we have been intertwined in the boating and yachting industry in Maine, giving us an insight to this world that supporters of this bill may not have.

I've outlined reasons in the past that similar bills to this should not move forward, such as the establishment of Florida's tax cap, the US charter regulations being out of date, crew flexibility, and privacy. In this I'd like to speak more to how this will impact our business. I've been lucky enough to meet and form relationships with many of the yacht captains who have visited us over the years. I can't tell you how many times a captain has called me regarding a bill because their owner was questioning charges as little as \$100. The owners and operators of these vessels, believe it or not, are on a budget just like any other business, and they are even more scrupulous when it comes to how they are spending their funds. I'd consider the majority of those in the yachting world as very principled, and just because they can afford to pay the tax, does not mean they will. Especially if they see it as an unnecessary charge just being tacked on because of the status and opinion of their boat.

There are a limited number of these yachts in the world, and an even more limited number who choose to cruise the New England coast in the summer months. Sure, there may be owners who don't care about the added expense and choose to come to Maine anyways, but alienating even a handful of these yachts could be the difference for our business. I do not own a mega yacht, nor do I believe those who do should be able to avoid taxation, but a dockage tax is not the solution. We should be welcoming those who are coming to spend tens of thousands of dollars with local businesses each summer, and this tax certainly wouldn't do that.

The income generated by these yachts is what allows us to serve our regulars, which includes recreational boaters, contractors and emergency services for companies such as CMP and Consolidated Communications. We are in the midst of a number of upgrades and repairs to our infrastructure, which are necessary to continue serving the Casco Bay community, but these yachts are the difference maker when it comes to being able to implement upgrades and repairs.

For these reasons I'm asking you to recognize the vulnerable position this bill puts marine facilities like ours in, and to please dismiss this bill as ought not to pass. I would also like to

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extend an invite to anyone involved with this process to visit with me at our facility in Portland and discuss the realities of this proposal.

People like us have spent decades and generations building businesses, locations and destinations for transient boaters, mega yachts or not, to spend their hard-earned money in our local communities. It would be a shame to see the state of Maine take money away from my family because they feel the need to get an additional piece. These people come to vacation and appreciate what our beautiful ports have to offer, and most importantly THEY SPEND MONEY. AT ALL THE LOCAL SHOPS. They tip, they're generous. They take care of our families.

I have already received word from two of our regular summer visitors that their boats WILL NOT enter Maine waters should this act pass. Those two boats dockage/fuel bills are enough to make or break the summer for us. Please don't tear down the business we have worked so long and hard to build.

Luciano DiMillo

Marina Manager