

Testimony in support of LD115, An Act to Assess Impact Fees on Mega Yachts (April 4th 2025).

Dear Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation. My name is Matthew Day and I'm a longtime resident of Portland, Maine. I'm writing in support of LD115, An Act to Assess Impact Fees on Mega yachts.

As a native Mainer I'm aware of the history and economic and cultural importance of the boating industry to the state. However, I am very concerned about the proliferation of mega yachts and their impact on our environment. Mega yachts are considered among [the most polluting of all forms of transportation](#), yet they are able to skirt local environmental and labor laws and taxes because they [sail under foreign flags](#) and [are exempt from maritime laws](#) such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

LD115 is one step toward correcting this problem as it will require yachts over 150 feet to pay a relatively small fee to go towards correcting the environmental harms they cause, and to help Maine achieve it's climate goals.

As a case example, in Portland last summer [one billionaire yacht owner had not one but two yachts](#) docked at the Fore Points Marina for nearly two weeks. His "main yacht" was 285 feet in length, while his "service yacht" measured 217 feet and can accommodate a 6-ton helicopter. Neither of these vessels were built in Maine or the USA. In fact, I'm not aware of any mega yachts ever being built in Maine. Furthermore, because [most mega yachts sail under a foreign flag](#) none of the crew or other occupants [pay Maine taxes](#), which go to help preserve and protect Maine's environment. In addition, [Fore Points Marina is owned by a Massachusetts company](#), thus profits from existing dock fees flow out of state.

I believe Maine should embrace its motto of "Dirigo" and lead the country in establishing an appropriate fee to compensate for the environmental exploitation and damage incurred by large yachts. If we don't, they will just become larger, more numerous, and more harmful to our environment, while leaving Maine taxpayers with the bill to clean up their environmental mess.

Please vote "Ought to Pass" on LD115!

Sincerely,
Matthew Day
Portland, Maine

Matthew Day
Portland
LD 115