

Donald Pearson
North Haven; Southern Harbor Elder Services
LD 841

I strongly oppose the proposed change to originate and end North Haven ferry runs on the mainland. It will add at least an hour -- likely more depending on crew availability and readiness, vessel startup process and weather -- to emergency evacuations from the island. Lacking ferry transport, either an airplane or a smaller island-berthed vessel would be required.

The landing facilities for the former require an access agreement with a private landowner or, lacking that, use of a meandering grass landing strip after negotiating a tricky approach over power lines.

Evacuation by a smaller vessel, assuming crew availability and decent weather, requires suitable docking at the prevailing tide and exacting manual patient transport to the vessel under potentially dangerous conditions underfoot in prevailing weather. Needless to say, the patient is subject to significant exposure and to the possibility of additional injury during transport.