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I am Barbara Howland and I reside at 232 Minturn Road, Swan's Island, ME 04685.

There is a compelling need for all who live on the Maine islands to have consistently reliable ferry services for work, school, household fuel/propane, doctor appointments and most importantly ambulance runs. The ferry service provides our bridge, young and old, to the mainland. When a medical emergency arises overnight, it is imperative that the ferry remain an option for providing safe passage to a hospital. To arbitrarily remove this option puts peoples' lives at risk. It is something that islanders have come to rely upon and should not be the subject of financial compromises. Since the ferries began operations in the 1960s, the service has always overnigheted on the islands and islanders have come to rely on the emotional support and comfort this affords particularly when a special medical need arises. Please act now to pass a bill that will require ferries to overnight on the islands they serve.