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

I support requiring the Maine State Ferry Service to consult with Maine State Ferry Advisory Board on matters regarding budgets, strategic planning and operational decisions involving ferry services to the islands.

There is a compelling need for all who live on the Maine islands to have a strong voice in all matters involving the ferry service. Residents of island communities are deeply interested in all aspects of ferry service to the islands as we rely on ferry services for work, school, household fuel/propane deliveries, doctor appointments and most importantly ambulance runs. The ferry service provides our bridge, for young and old, to the mainland. It is inconceivable that persons with little or no knowledge of island living would be charged with oversight of the ferry service without significant input from island residents who are served by the ferries. Please act now to give a greater voice in the decision making of the Department of Transportation to the Advisory Boards that consist of island residents who are directly impacted by decisions regarding ferry service.