

Mimi Rainford
Swan's Island
LD 1231

Dear Members of the Maine Legislature,

I am writing on behalf of the Swan's Island community to respectfully request that the Swan's Island Ferry be required to dock on Swan's Island.

This is not only a matter of convenience, but one of critical safety. In the event of a medical emergency, the presence of the ferry on the island could mean the difference between timely access to life-saving services and dangerous delays. Island residents rely heavily on the ferry system to reach essential medical care, and having the ferry docked off-island puts lives at unnecessary risk.

In addition to the safety concerns, a mainland docking location could negatively affect our students. Our high schoolers, who already face a lengthy commute to attend schools off-island, could face increased difficulties in arriving to school on time and participating in after-school activities. Education is central to our community's strength, and limiting students' access to full school days and extracurriculars would be a major setback.

Similarly, our elementary school depends on teachers who travel from the mainland. Changes to the ferry schedule or accessibility could create serious disruptions in staffing, impacting the quality and consistency of education we are able to provide to our youngest learners.

The ferry is a vital connection to the mainland, and its accessibility must prioritize the needs and safety of island residents first and foremost. I urge you to act in the best interest of Swan's Island by ensuring that the ferry is required to dock on the island.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and for your continued support of Maine's island communities.

Sincerely,
Mimi Rainford
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