



# Propeller Club

of Portland, Maine

April 28, 2025

To: Senator Tim Nangle (Chair)  
Committee on Transportation  
Maine Senate and Maine House of Representatives  
2 and 3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: **LD 1477 "An Act to Provide an Exemption from Pilotage Requirements for Passenger Ferry Service Between Bar Harbor, Maine and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia"**

**URGENT: PLEASE REJECT LD 1477**

Dear Senator Nangle and Members of the Transportation Committee:

The Propeller Club of the Port of Portland, Maine, is the local chapter of the International Propeller Club, a membership comprised of a cross section of the maritime industry throughout the United States and in many cities overseas. It is the largest maritime organization of its kind anywhere in the world. The Propeller Club of Portland received its charter in December 1938 and is dedicated to promoting safe and efficient commerce.

The Board of Governors of the Propeller Club of Portland unanimously voted to send a letter to the Transportation Committee urging the Committee to **reject LD 1477** ("An Act to Provide an Exemption from Pilotage Requirements for Passenger Ferry Service Between Bar Harbor, Maine and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia").

When a ship enters Maine waters from a foreign port, a Maine State Pilot boards the ship at the sea buoy and is the only person on the bridge of the ship who is accountable to the State of Maine for the vessel's safety. Upon boarding, the Pilot becomes a critical member of the ship's bridge team, someone who brings extensive local expertise to the job. Maine-licensed pilots are among the most highly qualified mariners working today and meet training standards that are higher than many of the other ports throughout the United States. Only the State-licensed pilot is accountable to the citizens of the State of Maine rather than the ship's owner. Removing a State-licensed pilot from the bridge of vessels engaged in foreign commerce is to invite a safety risk that is irresponsible.

The Propeller Club of Portland asks the Committee to please preserve the tradition of having a Maine State Pilot aboard every vessel currently requiring compulsory pilotage under Maine law by **rejecting LD 1477**. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Captain Walter Russell Jr.  
President  
Propeller Club of the Port of Portland