

GARY FARLEY  
SWAN'S ISLAND  
LD 1231

I am writing to express my opinion as Select Board member and as a resident of Swan's Island to adamantly oppose LD 1231. We depend on the Maine Ferry service for access to the mainland for emergency care. Without it, we risk the health of our aging population. Having the Ferry overnighed in Bass Harbor would take away from the Golden Hour in which emergencies are most critical. Not to mention the fact that Ferry has been known not to even run if wind and sea conditions are such that the Captain doesn't feel the Ferry is safe in the Bass Harbor pen. If it isn't safe to land there, how could it be safe to leave it there overnight, with the closest crew member potentially an hour away. We have crew members who live on the Island that would have to relocate or give up their job. i know many of the surrounding Islands affected by this feel the same as I do. It's wrong on so many levels. Frenchboro who is our neighbor, would not be able to rely on us for mutual aid in the event of fire. We ourselves in the event of mass evacuation would be at serious disadvantage of accomplishing that feat. You need to understand, that Ferry is our bridge. Safety is always on the minds of Islanders and having the Ferry overnight on the Island adds to a level of comfort. Knowing it's based here is huge. So please, the ferry is our Lifeline and bridge, don't take that away from us. Thank you