



Hancock County Emergency Management Agency

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April 28, 2025

Maine State Legislature, Transportation Committee
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: HP 806, LD 1231; An Act Requiring Ferries to Dock Overnight on Certain Islands for Emergency Purposes

Dear Members of the Transportation Committee,

With respect to the proposed legislation of HP 806, LD 1231, please know I fully endorse and support its provisions; the longstanding practice of having the M/V Captain Henry Lee tie-up overnights on Swan's Island has proven beneficial in innumerable instances over the many decades, aiding in all public safety operations to and for our at-risk, Hancock County offshore island communities of Swan's Island and Frenchboro.

Specifically, given the reliance both the Swans Island and Frenchboro communities have upon the ferry being its link to the mainland with respect to public safety mission needs, I cannot envision the present practice modified or ended as has been proposed. Inasmuch as we no longer enjoy the 24/7/365 response resource formerly provided by the U.S. Coast Guard's Station Southwest Harbor, or, that of other maritime agency partners, I believe it essential these communities directly possess the ability of having both the vessel and crew get underway without the additional delay of a return trip to the island(s) should emergent needs arise. This is clearly a most critical capability year-round, foremost during the off-service, overnight hours.

While I'm unsure as to the reasoning for the proposed, potential change, I am confident it does not outweigh the need for community access to emergency transport/services without delays when emergent needs arise. As such, I urge you to please vote in the affirmative to see HP 806, LD 1231 advance and enacted into law.

Thank you for your time and kindness in considering my advocacy and for statutorily providing for these communities' public safety infrastructure as provided by the island-based ferry. If I may provide any additional advocacy in this issue, please advise. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Sankey".

Andrew Sankey

Andrew Sankey
Hancock County Emergency Management Agency
LD 1231
Thank you.