

Senator Tim Nangle, Chair
Rep. Lydia Crafts, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Transportation
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: LD 1874, An Act to Enable the Maine Pilotage Commission to Oversee Pilots Operating in Portland Harbor

Dear Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and members of the Transportation Committee:

My name is Terry Sullivan, I am the Terminal Manager at Sunoco in South Portland, a former merchant mariner, and an alumnus of Maine Maritime Academy. I am writing on behalf of myself to urge the Committee to support LD 1874, An Act to Enable the Maine Pilotage Commission to Oversee Pilots Operating in Portland Harbor.

For many years, the Maine Pilotage Commission's sole focus has been the oversight of a safe and successful pilotage system for all Maine's waters, other than Portland Harbor. With a career in a highly regulated industry, I emphasize the word "safe" as maritime safety should be the number one priority for any state, municipality, harbor, regulatory board, or business with regard to the movement of vessels in a harbor. I have managed terminals and oil facilities throughout the entire northeast, and I recognize that every port has different needs, something that the Maine Pilotage Commission recognizes in their training requirements and rate structures. Through LD 1874, the Maine Pilotage Commission would assume the oversight of pilotage rates and the licensure standards of pilots in Portland Harbor while keeping in place the rules and regulations currently in effect in Portland Harbor. This makes sense given the differences between Portland Harbor and other ports in Maine from a traffic and configuration standpoint.

The Maine Pilotage Commission has proven successful in its duties of rate-setting, licensure, training, incident investigation and others. I would attribute this to the vast and diverse maritime background of its members. To be considered for appointment on the Maine Pilotage Commission, one must have specific experience in a maritime field, either as someone who utilizes the services of pilots, has a maritime background, or is a pilot licensed under the Commission. Marine transportation is by far the most efficient method of shipping bulk goods, and like every transportation sector, the rules and regulations are continuously changing and improving. Additionally, high risk exists in the marine industry, with the potential for catastrophic, even deadly, accidents. Having a detailed understanding of the intricacies of piloting and maritime commerce can be convoluted, which is why it is critical to maintain the most qualified regulatory oversight. I believe the Maine Pilotage Commission to be this oversight.

This bill will provide assurance to shippers that all sea pilots in Maine are regulated by the most qualified individuals the State can provide. Thank you for your time considering my testimony, and I hope that you join me in supporting this bill.

Sincerely,



Terry Sullivan