

January 22, 2026

RE: LD 2143– An Act to Create a Fund to Spread Awareness of Maine's Working Waterfronts

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development,

My name is Stacey Keefer. I am a resident of Union and I am sharing testimony today in my capacity as Director for the Maine Marine Trades Association (MMTA). MMTA represents over 120 Maine businesses and an industry comprised of boatyards, boat builders, marinas, boat dealers, marine retailers, and many businesses who are part of, or who serve, working waterfronts.

MMTA would like the Committee to note that the definition of ***functionally dependent use*** in 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 59.1 is a “a use which cannot perform its intended purpose unless it is located or carried out in close proximity to water. The term includes only docking facilities, port facilities that are necessary for the loading and unloading of cargo or passengers, and **ship building** and **ship repair** facilities, but does not include long-term storage or related manufacturing facilities.”

We hope that the intent of LD 2143 is to help out our working waterfronts that support boating infrastructure for all purposes along the coast whereas boatyards, shipyards, and marinas were deemed essential infrastructure and businesses in 2020. The coast of Maine has only a few shipyards, but most of our fisheries depend on smaller boat builders and boat repair businesses. Perhaps the language could be changed to reference **watercraft** or **vessels**, rather than ships.

My apologies that I could not be present for the hearing today, but I am happy to answer any questions for the Committee before the work session. Thank you for this consideration.

Respectfully,



Stacey Keefer
Maine Marine Trades Association, Executive Director

